

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2325

ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

IDENTIFYING POLLUTED STRETCHES

2325. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has identified polluted stretches in various rivers in different States including in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the order of the NGT to clean polluted river stretches has not been implemented till now;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly Tamil Nadu, alongwith the reasons for not implementing the NGT order; and
- (e) by when the same is likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has laid a water quality monitoring network across the country with assistance of State Pollution Control Boards/ Committee under the National Water Quality Monitoring programme. In last report published in November, 2022, 603 rivers were monitored in the country. 311 polluted river stretches (PRS) have been identified in 279 rivers. 10 PRS in 10 rivers in Tamil Nadu have been identified. The number of polluted stretches in the country has decreased from 351 in 2018 to 311 in the year 2022. The details of the same are available at:

<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=UmVwb3J0RmlsZXMvMTQ5OF8xNjcyOTg4MDQ1X21lZGlhcGhvdG8xMjk5NS5wZGY=>

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued orders from time to time related to polluted river stretches. In Original Application No. 673/2018, in which the NGT directed that all States/UTs should prepare action plans for the rejuvenation of polluted river stretches in the country identified in 2018 by CPCB. As per the direction, the implementation of said action plans has to be reviewed at all States/UTs and the central level.

In compliance of these orders the States have got their action plan prepared and got approved from the competent authority. For monitoring, Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) has been constituted at Central level under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River

Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India. So far, 19 CMC meetings have been held.

Cleaning/rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing activity. It is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies.

For conservation of rivers, the Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of the rivers in the country through Central Sector scheme of “Namami Gange” for the rivers in Ganga basin, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for other rivers. Apart from this sewerage infrastructure is created under programs like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
