

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1216

ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

RIVER CLEANING INITIATIVES

1216. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government acknowledges that despite multiple schemes and funds allocated for river cleaning, severe pollution persists in major rivers across the country;
- (b) whether any assessments undertaken to identify key challenges hindering the success of these river cleaning initiatives, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has set a timeline to effectively address rivers pollution, given its impact on public health and the environment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) It is evident from the reports published by the Central Pollution Control Board on polluted river stretches (PRS) that the number of PRS has reduced from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022 in terms of Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution, in spite of the increase in the number of monitored river stretches, which is due to the effective implementation of various schemes. Out of 351 PRS identified in 2018, 106 have been delisted, and 74 PRS have shown improvement in the 2022 report.

In some cases, desired results have not been achieved due to underutilization of sewage infrastructure, lack of household connection, delay in project execution, and poor operation & maintenance by the concerned authority.

Cleaning/rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing activity. It is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies to ensure the required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies. The Government of India has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in rivers/tributaries in Ganga basin through the Central Sector Scheme of Namami Gange Program, and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan for other rivers and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation in the country.
