GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1849

ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

WATER QUALITY OF RIVER GANGA

1849. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

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

(a) whether the water quality of Ganga river has been tested;

(b) the level of contamination found in Ganga, city-wise and year-wise, since 2020;

(c) whether Government has tested the water quality of river Ganga near Prayagraj, keeping in mind the health and safety of crores of pilgrims that have visited and bathed in the river during Mahakumbh;

(d) if so, the results of the quality tests, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken to encourage the respective State Governments to conduct regular water quality testing and take up purification techniques?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) & (b) The water quality of river Ganga is being monitored by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 5 main stem States through concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

State-wise data range of Physical parameters and Organic parameter, included in notified primary water quality criteria for bathing water by CPCB is enclosed in **Annexure**.

(c) & (d) In pursuance to Hon'ble NGT order in OA No. 310/2022 with M.A No. 59/2024 in OA No. 56/2024 dated 23.12.2024, CPCB has carried out water quality monitoring at seven locations (twice a week) in the stretch from Shringverpur ghat (u/s of Prayagraj) to Deehaghat (d/s of Prayagraj) including at Sangam nose (confluence point of river Ganga and Yamuna) from 12th January, 2025 covering auspicious bathing (Amrit Snan) days including pre and post days of such auspicious bathing days.

Further, CPCB added three more water quality monitoring locations and increased monitoring frequency to twice daily with effect from 21.02.2025 to augment availability of water quality data, thus taking the total number of water quality monitoring locations to 10. As per the comprehensive report prepared based on the above monitoring, the median value of pH, DO, BOD and FC for all the monitored locations was found within the respective criteria/permissible limits for Primary Bathing Water Quality Criteria.

(e) The Government has undertaken several measures to encourage State Governments to conduct regular water quality testing and adopt purification techniques. The contributions of the Namami Gange Programme for improving the water quality along the river Ganga and its tributaries are as under:

1. **Pollution Inventorisation Assessment & Surveillance on River Ganga (PIAS) Project:**

Objectives (i) Identification of major pollution sources and water quality monitoring of major drains joining river Ganga and its tributaries; (ii) Inventorisation and compliance verification, of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) including CETPs, through third party inspection by reputed technical institutes and (iii) Performance evaluation of STPs.

2. **Strengthening of Environmental Regulator (SER) Project:**

Objectives: (i) Water Quality Assessment and Identification of Polluted Stretches; (ii) Training & capacity building; (iii) Strengthening of CPCB with Technical and expert Manpower; (iv) Infrastructure support.

3. **Water Quality Monitoring system for River Ganga (WQM) Project:**

Objectives: (i) Establishment and procurement of data of Real Time Water Quality Monitoring System (RTWQMS) on main stem of River Ganga and its tributaries, to assess Water Quality of River Ganga in terms of bathing criteria and (ii) Biomonitoring on Ganga and its tributaries to study the Benthic Macro Invertebrates, which reflects the biological health of river.

4. At NMCG, an on-line dashboard **"PRAYAG**" has been operationalized for online monitoring of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs); etc.
5. A total of 206 number of sewerage infrastructure projects costing ₹ 33,004 crores have been taken up for **remediation of polluted river areas** with treatment capacity of 6,335 Million Liters per Day (MLD). 127 STP projects with a capacity of 3,446 MLD have been completed and made operational;

6. For industrial pollution abatement**,** 3 nos. of **Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs**) have been sanctioned, i.e., Jajmau CETP (20 MLD), Banther CETP (4.5 MLD), and Mathura CETP (6.25 MLD). Two projects, Mathura CETP (6.25 MLD) and Jajmau CETP (20 MLD) have been completed;

7. **Annual inspection of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs):** To monitor the industries' pollution, annual inspection of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) started in 2017. In seventh round of inspection, 4246 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) have been inventoried in the 7th round of inspection. All the GPIs have been inspected. So far, out of 4,000 GPIs on which action has been completed, 2682 GPIs are compliant, 517 are non-compliant, 523 GPIs are temporarily closed, and 278 GPIs are permanently closed. Among the non-compliant (517 GPIs), 26 GPIs have been issued notice for closure and 491 GPIs have been issued show cause notice. These efforts have resulted in reduction in BOD load from 26 tons per day (TPD) in 2017 to 13.73 TPD in 2023, and about 28.6 % reduction in effluent discharge from 349 MLD in 2017 to 249.31 MLD in 2023.

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ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1849 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 17.03.2025 REGARDING "WATER QUALITY OF RIVER GANGA".

The State-wise, year-wise details of Physical and Organic parameters included in notified primary water quality criteria for bathing water by CPCB

State	Parameters		2021		2022		2023	
			Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Uttarakhand	Physical parameters	pH	6.6	8.4	6.4	8.4	7	8.6
		Dissolved Oxygen	8	12.8	8	11	6.2	11
	Organic parameters	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	0.4	4	1	2.6	1	2.8
Uttar Pradesh	Physical parameters	pH	6.7	8.8	6.5	8.5	6.4	8.7
		Dissolved Oxygen	5.6	12.5	5	12	4.1	11.6
	Organic parameters	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	BDL	9.8	1	5.3	1	6.9
Bihar	Physical parameters	pH	6.8	8.9	6.6	8.6	6.9	8.7
		Dissolved Oxygen	4.3	11.1	3.7	12.8	5	13.4
	Organic parameters	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	1.1	6.7	1	7.9	1	3.2
Jharkhand	Physical parameters	pH	7	8.5	7.4	7.8	7.4	7.6
		Dissolved Oxygen	7.6	10.5	6.4	7.8	6.6	7.3
	Organic parameters	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	1.4	2.8	1.2	2.4	1.1	1.6
West Bengal	Physical parameters	pH	6.1	8.8	6.4	8.6	6.8	8.6
		Dissolved Oxygen	3.7	12.5	3.2	9.9	4.8	9.4
	Organic parameters	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	BDL	7.7	1.1	4.7	1	4.9

Note: 1. BDL-Below Detection Limit

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