

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2634

ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

RIVER REJUVENATION AND CLEANLINESS INITIATIVES

2634. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) initiatives being undertaken by the Central Government for the rejuvenation of major rivers like the Ganga Yamuna and Brahmaputra, alongside the rivers in the State of Punjab;
- (b) the specific steps the Central Government is taking to prevent and control the discharge of untreated sewage and industrial waste into the rivers, particularly in highly industrialized regions like the State;
- (c) whether there are plan to introduce stricter monitoring and enforcement of pollution control measures along major rivers; and
- (d) whether there is a centralized national framework to coordinate river management efforts and ensure sustainable water resources?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with Pollution Control Boards/Committees in different States/Union Territories (UTs) has been monitoring water quality of rivers and other water bodies across the country through a network of monitoring stations under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme. Based on water quality monitoring results, pollution assessment of rivers has been carried out by CPCB from time to time.

Cleaning/rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing process. It is the primary responsibility of States/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 including Brahmaputra, alongside the rivers in the State of Punjab . 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.

Discharge of industrial effluents is monitored by CPCB and the respective State Pollution Control Boards/Committees, and in case of non-compliance with the prescribed norms, punitive actions are taken in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

In addition to the ongoing schemes Namami Gange, NRCP, and AMRUT, the States/UTs are putting efforts into pollution abatement of the river. States/UTs have prepared the action plan in compliance with National Green Tribunal orders and got their action plan approved from the competent authority. For monitoring, the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) has been constituted at the 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.

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