

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 714**

ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

**RIVER POLLUTION IN MAHARASHTRA**

714. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the State of Maharashtra has the highest number of polluted river stretches in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to confirm the accuracy of the findings and conduct water quality assessments;
- (c) the specific pollutants identified in these river stretches and their sources; and
- (d) the role of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Central Government in monitoring and addressing this issue?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Central Pollution Control Board in its last report published in November, 2022 has identified 55 polluted river stretches in 55 rivers in Maharashtra.

(b) Central Pollution Control Board is the apex body in the field of water quality management in India. It 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 order to assess status of water quality of water resources.

(c) Rivers in the country are polluted and contaminated mainly due to discharge of untreated and partially treated sewage from cities/towns and industrial effluents in their respective catchments. Non-point source of pollution like erosion, transportation and sedimentation of rocks, soils, agriculture runoff, open defecation and runoff from solid waste dumping sites, etc. also contribute to pollution of river.

(d) As per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units and local bodies are required to install Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs)/Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) respectively and treat their effluents/sewage to comply with stipulated environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies.

Accordingly, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take punitive action for non-compliance under the provisions of these Acts.

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