

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 728

ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

STATUS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF E-FLOW MONITORING SYSTEM UNDER NGP

728. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

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

- (a) the current status of the E-flow Monitoring System launched for real-time monitoring of river quality and ecological flows in the Ganga and its tributaries;
- (b) the details of the performance of STPs monitored under the Namami Gange Programme (NGP), including their operational capacity and compliance with rated standards;
- (c) the steps that are being taken to address issues such as impeded river flow and ecological damage caused by dams along Ganga river; and
- (d) the details of progress made under the Namami Gange Mission, including timelines for completing ongoing projects and plans to expand river rejuvenation programmes to other rivers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) Central Water Commission (CWC) has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the compliance on maintenance of desired e-flows. Monitoring of e-flows is being carried out by CWC since 1st January, 2019.
- (b) NMCG monitors the performance of the STPs installed in Ganga basin through Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) and reviews the performance in Central Monitoring Committee meeting. As per the report submitted to Central Monitoring Committee (CMC), there are total 732 STPs, out of which 542 STPs are complying with the prescribed standards;
- (c) Government of India vide Gazette notification dated 9th October 2018, has notified the minimum environmental flows for river Ganga that have to be maintained at various locations downstream of hydro-electric/multipurpose projects on the river. The major steps taken for ecological restoration and conservation in Ganga basin includes;
 - i. Biodiversity Conservation: Seven Biodiversity Parks in seven districts (Mirzapur, Bulandshahar, Hapur, Budaun, Ayodhya, Bijnore and Pratapgarh) of Uttar Pradesh and 5 priority wetlands in Uttar Pradesh (3), Bihar (1) and Jharkhand (1) have been sanctioned;

- ii. NMCG, through the State Forest Department, has implemented a **forestry intervention** project along the main stem of river Ganga. 33,024 hectares area have been afforested with an expenditure of about ₹ 398 crores;
- iii. A total of 143.8 lakhs of Indian Major Carp (IMC) fingerlings have been reared in the Ganga since 2017 to conserve fish biodiversity and prey base for river Dolphins, and ensure the livelihood of fishers in the Ganga basin under the special project implemented by Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI);
- iv. Science-based species restoration programme, rescue, and rehabilitation programme for aquatic species like Dolphins, Otters, Hilsa, Turtles, and Ghariyal in collaboration with Wild Life Institute of India (WII), Dehradun and State Forest Department, have shown marked improvements in biodiversity with increased sightings of Dolphins, Otters, Hilsa, Turtles, and other riverine species;

(d) The Government of India (GoI) launched the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) in 2014-15 for the rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries (such as Yamuna, Ram Ganga, Saryu, Sone, Hindon, Gomti, Krishni, etc.) for five years, up to March 2021 and has been further extended to March 2026. Under the Namami Gange Programme, a diverse and holistic set of interventions for cleaning and rejuvenation of river Ganga have been taken up, that includes wastewater treatment, solid waste management, riverfront management (ghats and crematoria), ensuring e- flow, rural sanitation, afforestation, biodiversity conservation, public participation, etc. A total of 488 projects were sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹ 39,730 crores, 305 projects have already been completed and made operational.
