

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 897

ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

POLLUTION IN SUTLEJ, BEAS, RAVI IN PUNJAB

897. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) the measures currently being implemented to address the pollution levels in the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi and other rivers in the State of Punjab;
- (b) whether there are any targeted projects or interventions in place to restore and rejuvenate these rivers, particularly with respect to wastewater discharge and industrial effluents;
- (c) plan of the Ministry to involve local communities, industries and stakeholders in sustainable river management and conservation efforts; and
- (d) whether any programs are there for promoting community-led initiatives for maintaining the health of rivers in the State of Punjab and other parts of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) As per the report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2022 on pollution assessment of rivers in the country, five stretches in the State of Punjab, each on rivers Ghaggar, Sutlej, Sirsa (tributary of Sutlej), Swan (tributary of Sutlej) and Kali Bein (tributary of Beas) were identified polluted.

It is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents, before discharging into recipient water bodies or land for prevention and control of pollution therein. For conservation of rivers/tributaries in the country excluding Ganga Basin, this Ministry is supplementing efforts of the States/UTs with the implementation of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) on cost sharing basis.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement schemes for conservation of **Ghaggar** river were sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.57.11 crore and sewage treatment capacity of 15 million litres per day (MLD) was created. As informed by Punjab Pollution Control Board, 28 STPs of total capacity 291.7 MLD have been set up in Ghaggar river catchment and 15 STPs of capacity 97 MLD are in different stages of implementation. For conservation of **Sutlej and Beas** rivers under NRCP, pollution abatement works were sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.717.32 crores, and sewage treatment capacity of 648 MLD was created.

In order to address pollution concerns of river Sutlej due to discharge of Buddha Nallah carrying municipal, industrial, dairy and other wastes from Ludhiana town, the State Government of Punjab has undertaken Buddha Nallah Rejuvenation project. The project included setting up sewage treatment plants (STPs) of 225 million litres per day (MLD) at Jamalpur & 60 MLD at Bloke, rehabilitation of four STPs - 111 MLD & 50 MLD at Bhattian and 152 MLD & 105 MLD at Balloke, two effluent treatment plants of capacity 3.75 MLD & 2.25 MLD for treatment of waste water from Haibowal and Tajpur Road dairy complexes. Further, to prevent and control of industrial discharge from clusters of small/medium scale dyeing industries in Ludhiana, Common Effluent Treatment Plants of capacity 40 MLD, 50 MLD & 15 MLD have been set up.

The State Government of Punjab has informed that sewage treatment capacity of 2343 MLD has been created in the State against total sewage generation of 2268 MLD, implying adequate measures undertaken to prevent pollution in rivers due to municipal discharges. Also, to check pollution in rivers due to industrial effluents, 1790 water polluting units are having their own ETPs whereas, remaining units are connected to CETPs.

The schemes of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs are also being implemented which are aimed at creating and/or augmenting sewerage infrastructure in identified towns and thus improving water quality of rivers and other water bodies, sanitation systems and water management in those towns.

Cleaning/rejuvenation of rivers is a continuous and dynamic process. In compliance of the orders of National Green Tribunal in Original Application No.673/2018 regarding polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs are required to implement action plans for restoration of the said stretches in their jurisdiction within the stipulated timelines.

(c) & (d) Water being the State subject, States/UTs/Local Bodies are engaged in promoting community led initiatives towards sanitation and waste management which are crucial for health of the rivers to foster the sense of ownership and responsibility. These include rivers clean up drives, education and awareness campaigns, watershed protection and conservation, cultural interventions - Ganga Utsav, Nadi Utsav, waste management solutions, Mission Life - behavioral changes, Pani Panchayat, etc.

Under NRCP, mass awareness, public participation and other activities relating to information, education and communication remain integral part of the projects for conservation of rivers. These aim at holistic conservation and promoting health of the rivers by ensuring involvement of local community, industrial associations and other stakeholders.
