

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1047**

ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

**POLLUTION IN YAMUNA GHAT**

1047 Dr. M. DHANAPAL:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the resurfacing of toxic froth at the Yamuna ghat in Kalindi Kunj, rendering stretches of the river nearly invisible and posing serious risks to public health and ecology;
- (b) the reasons for its recurring occurrence, including untreated sewage, industrial effluents and detergent-laden discharges;
- (c) the steps taken under the Yamuna Action Plan and related programmes to improve water quality in this stretch;
- (d) whether accountability has been fixed on agencies or local bodies violating discharge norms; and
- (e) the additional measures with timelines proposed for effective sewage treatment, monitoring and long-term ecological restoration of the Yamuna river?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) & (b):** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) carried out monitoring on river Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj (downstream of Okhla barrage in view of froth/foam formation in river Yamuna in the year 2022-2024. The causal link for the forth formation is due to sudden fall of water from the barrage; agitation of foaming agents present in the wastewater forming foam which float on the surface of River Yamuna. Surfactants in detergents are the main foaming agents present in the untreated sewage or partially treated sewage.

Further, the Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi, has conducted a study titled “Study on Yamuna Frothing in Delhi” through the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The findings of the study on the froth formation indicates trigger of the event is mainly by the poor water quality of the river, which results from various factors such as effluent containing high ammonia and phosphate, released from anionic surfactants.

The main reasons for pollution in river Yamuna in Delhi are:

- i. Discharge of untreated/ partially treated sewage into river Yamuna. As informed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Gap in treatment in June 2025 is 645.55 MLD;

- ii. Absence of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in some approved industrial areas;
- iii. Delay in completion of new projects and rehabilitation and/or upgradation of sewage treatment projects.

**(c) & (e):** Under the Namami Gange Programme in the State of Delhi, a total of 11 projects have been sanctioned at a cost of ₹2,506 crores for the creation of 1,273 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage treatment capacity. Out of these, 9 projects, with a combined treatment capacity of 1,268 MLD, have been completed. As per the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), 37 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are operational in Delhi. Out of these, 28 STPs, with a combined treatment capacity of 3,338 MLD, have been upgraded to meet the latest CPCB/DPCC standards, while the remaining 9 STPs are functioning on old norms/ design parameters.

Furthermore, to control pollution through industrial effluent:

- a. Water pollution control from the industries in Delhi, for the treatment of waste water generated from industrial areas 13 common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) have been provided with a capacity of 212.3 MLD.
- b. CPCB organizes annual inspection of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) operating in river Yamuna main stem States including NCT-Delhi and Uttar Pradesh having potential to discharge into river Ganga, Yamuna & their tributaries by joint teams of officials from third party technical institutes and State Pollution Control Boards/Committee (SPCBs/PCC). During 2024, total 189 GPIs in river Yamuna main stem were inspected. It was estimated that 158 operational GPIs discharge about 1.33 MLD treated wastewater.

Based on various reports, the Urban Development Department (UDD), Government of NCT of Delhi, has constituted a High-Level Committee (HLC) for the rejuvenation of River Yamuna in Delhi, vide order dated 02.07.2025. The HLC shall oversee and guide the rejuvenation of the River Yamuna in Delhi, ensuring a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable approach for restoring its ecological health and aesthetic value. In another order dated 02.07.2025 by the Urban Development Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, an Executive Committee for Rejuvenation of River Yamuna has also been constituted for implementation and execution of the directions of the aforesaid HLC.

**(d):** The STPs in Delhi are operated by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), and as per DJB, accountability for operation and maintenance has been clearly delineated, and any deviation from the prescribed standard operating procedure (SOP) results in penalties imposed on the responsible agency in accordance with the norms and contractual provisions.

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