

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2933
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

Violation of environmental norms by industries

2933. SHRI NATHWANI PARIMAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether industrial effluents from mining, steel and thermal power units are affecting the water quality of the Damodar and Subarnarekha rivers;
- (b) the number of industries located along those rivers basins found violating environmental norms during the last five years;
- (c) the action taken against such industries; and
- (d) whether any real-time water quality monitoring system has been installed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): Industrial pollution including pollution from mining, steel and thermal power plants (TPP) across the country is regulated by concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) or Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through Consent mechanism (Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate) under the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Additionally, these industries are also regulated under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 through grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) and filing of half-yearly compliance reports by the industries for post project monitoring.

As per the information submitted by Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), the industrial effluents generated from mining, Integrated Steel Plants and Thermal Power Plants in Jharkhand are treated before discharge, and Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) has been installed in Integrated Steel Plants and Thermal Power Plants. The water quality of the Damodar and Subarnarekha rivers is monitored monthly by JSPCB and falls under Category 'C' as per CPCB designated best-use criteria. Jharkhand SPCB informed that Show Cause Notices and Environmental Compensation have been issued in cases of violation by Jharkhand SPCB.

As informed by Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), the Damodar river does not flow through the State and no mine/steel/thermal power plant operates along the Subarnarekha River bank. Monitoring undertaken by OSPCB at Rajghat and Jharapokharia (Pandra) on river Subarnarekha

during 2025 showed that the parameters were within the prescribed Class 'C' criteria as per CPCB designated best-use criteria.

As informed by West Bengal State Pollution Control Board (WBSPCB), during the last five years, 363 industries in and around the Damodar and Subarnarekha River were found violating environmental norms. Direction including imposition of Bank Guarantee and Penalty were issued to 278 industries and Closure Order was imposed on 85 industries.

Further, in order to strengthen self-regulation, 17 categories of highly polluting industries which include TPP and Steel industries are mandated to install Online Continuous Emission/Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS), for real-time monitoring and alert system with connectivity to the server of SPCBs/PCCs and Central Pollution Control Boards (CPCB). Based on the alerts generated from OCEMS, CPCB also conducts surprise inspection of selected industries and appropriate action is initiated by CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 against the non-complaint industries.

CPCB organizes annual inspection of GPIs operating in river Ganga main stem States having potential to discharge into river Ganga & its tributaries (including Damodar river, excluding Subarnarekha river) by joint teams of officials from third party technical institutes and State Pollution Control Boards/Committee (SPCBs/PCC) since 2017.

During 2025, a total of 16 GPIs operating in Damodar river basin states were inspected, of which 13 GPIs were operational. Among the operational GPIs, 09 were found complied and 04 were found non-complied and were issued Show Cause Notice (SCN) by concerned SPCBs. In addition, 03 GPIs were self-closed. The compliance status of GPIs operating in river Damodar basin states during 2020-2025 as on 03.07.2026 is at **Annexure I**.

CPCB under the Namami Gange Programme, set up a network of 40 Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring (RTWQM) stations on River Ganga and its tributaries. Out of 40 RTWQM stations, 20 stations are on River Ganga and 20 are on its tributaries including 03 stations on River Damodar. Of these, 01 station is located in Dhanbad district, Jharkhand, and the remaining 02 stations are located in Bardhaman and Ramgarh districts of West Bengal.

Annexure I

Compliance status of GPIs in river Damodar during 2020-2025 (at the time of inspection)

Year	No of GPIs	Operational	Complied	Non-Complied		Self-Closed	
				SCN	Closure	Temporary Closed	Permanent Closed
2020	14	13	9	4	0	1	0
2022	12	12	8	4	0	0	0
2023	12	12	9	3	0	0	0
2024	13	10	6	4	0	3	0
2025	16	13	9	4	0	3	0

SCN-Show Cause Notice
