

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108**  
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2018

**SOLID WASTES IN WATER BODIES**

2108. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the increasing amount of solid wastes in various water resources including back waters in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any surveys and studies regarding the impact and amount of wastes in these water bodies and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to stop the dumping of solid wastes and cleaning of the water bodies?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND  
GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) Management of Solid Wastes (SWM) is a State subject & Municipal function and as such local bodies are responsible for performing this important activity. The local bodies in the country are, therefore, required to plan, design, operate, and maintain the SWM system in their respective cities/towns.

Under Namami Gange programme, following initiatives have been taken to reduce the solid waste in the river Ganga / Yamuna:

1. River surface cleaning through mechanical trash skimmers at 11 locations namely Haridwar, Garhmukteshwar, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Sahibganj, Kolkata, Nabadweep, Delhi and Mathura-Vrindavan.
2. Ghat cleaning activities at Varanasi
3. Awareness creation and public outreach activities regarding management of solid waste.

Apart from the above for cleaning of river Ganga various measures such as sewage treatment, treatment of industrial effluent, in-situ bioremediation of drains, rural sanitation, ghats & crematoria works, afforestation, biodiversity are also being undertaken.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), on cost sharing basis between the Central & State Governments for taking up various pollution abatement works. The works taken up under NRCP, inter-alia, includes interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage system, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front/bathing ghat development, etc. NRCP has covered polluted stretches of 32 rivers in 76 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4579.56 crore. So far, Central share of Rs. 2236.98 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement schemes & sewage treatment capacity of 2466.43 mld (million litres per day) has been created under the NRCP.

For conservation, management and restoration of identified lakes and wetlands in the country in a holistic manner, Ministry of MoEFCC is currently implementing a scheme namely, National Plan Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Government. The scheme provides assistance for various components which includes solid waste management, insitu cleaning i.e. desilting, dewatering etc. MoEF&CC had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to regulate various activities within the wetlands. The prohibited activities include solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated sewage, effluents etc. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 also prohibit the said activities.

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