

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1325

ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

RISE IN POLLUTION OF RIVERS

†1325. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Government concur with the data provided by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) regarding the steady rise in pollution across majority of rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the causes of the said rise in pollution and to improve the condition;
- (c) the details of the funds spent by the Government during the last five years on the projects to make the rivers pollution free;
- (d) whether any assessment has also been made by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of the funds; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) The report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the data collected therein, is the guiding document for assessment of the pollution in various stretches of rivers in the country. CPCB, in association with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs), monitors water quality of rivers and other water bodies in the country through a network of monitoring stations under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). Based on water quality monitoring results, pollution assessment of rivers has been carried out by CPCB from time to time. Rivers in the country are polluted due to discharge of untreated and partially treated domestic sewage from cities/towns/local bodies and industrial effluents in their respective catchments, problems in operation and maintenance of sewage and industrial effluent treatment plants, lack of dilution and other non-point sources of pollution. Rapid urbanization and industrialization have compounded the problem. So far, CPCB has adopted the criteria of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) as an indicator to assess the quality of water in rivers and pollution levels.

Presently, CPCB under NWMP monitors water quality of rivers at 2,026 locations in the country. Based on the assessment of water quality data for the year 2019 & 2021, CPCB in its report of November 2022, identified 311 polluted river stretches on 279 rivers in 30 States/Union Territories (UTs). State/UT-wise details of polluted river stretches are given at **Annexure**.

It was informed by CPCB that the data published by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is not available with them, as the Board was not involved in publication of the same by CSE.

(b) & (c) It is the primary responsibility of the States/UTs/ Local Bodies and industrial units to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed standards before discharging into water bodies, seas or land to prevent and control of pollution therein. Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers are

ongoing activities. This Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers (except Ganga basin) in the country through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries is undertaken through the Central Sector Scheme of Namami Gange Programme.

NRCP has so far covered polluted stretches on 36 rivers in 80 towns spread over 16 States in the country with the project sanctioned cost of Rs. 6,248.16 crore, and *inter alia*, a sewage treatment capacity of 2,745.7 million liters per day (mld) has been created. Under the Namami Gange Programme, 409 projects, including 177 projects for sewage treatment capacity of 5,269.87 mld and a sewer network of 5,213 km, have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 32,912.40 crore. Details of the funds spent by the Government during the last five years on the projects to make the rivers pollution free are as under:

Financial Year	Funds Released (Rs. in crore)	
	National River Conservation Plan	Namami Gange
2017-18	173.34	1,625.01
2018-19	150.32	2,626.54
2019-20	136.66	2,673.09
2020-21	99.87	1,339.97
2021-22	202.32	1,892.70
Total	762.51	10,157.31

In addition to these, sewerage infrastructure is also created under programs like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

As per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units are required to install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and treat their effluents to comply with stipulated environmental standards, before discharging into river and water bodies. Accordingly, CPCB, SPCBs and PCCs monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take punitive action for non-compliance under provisions of these Acts.

Additionally, in compliance of the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Original Application No.673/2018 regarding rejuvenation of polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs are required to implement approved action plans for restoration of the polluted stretches in their jurisdiction as identified by CPCB and published in their report of 2018, within the stipulated timelines. As per the orders of NGT, regular review on implementation of these action plans is undertaken in the States/UTs and the same is also done at the Central level by Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India.

(d) & (e) Progress of implementation and proper utilization of funds are monitored by both the State Implementing Agencies and the Ministry through a multi-tier monitoring mechanism. Schemes under NRCP are periodically reviewed by NRCD. The concerned officers in the Ministry also visit the project sites and review the progress of the project and utilization of funds with the officer concerned from the implementing agency and the State Government. The shortcomings are then communicated to the State Government as well as the project implementing agency. The projects are also monitored on regular basis at the State level. Based on these efforts, the State Governments through its Implementing Authorities submit utilization certificates of the funds utilized for release of next installments of funds.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1325 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09.02.2023 ON 'RISE IN POLLUTION OF RIVERS'.

State/UT-wise & Priority wise number of Polluted River Stretches

S No.	STATE/UNION TERRITORY	PRIORITY CLASS					TOTAL No. of PRS
		I	II	III	IV	V	
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1	-	-	1	1	3
2	ASSAM	1	-	-	-	9	10
3	BIHAR	-	1	2	7	8	18
4	CHHATTISGARH		1		2	3	6
5	DAMAN AND DIU, DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	-	-	1	-	-	1
6	DELHI	1	-	-	-	-	1
7	GOA	-	-	-	1	5	6
8	GUJARAT	6	1	1	1	4	13
9	HARYANA	2	1	-	-	-	3
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	4	-	-	1	4	9
11	JAMMU & KASHMIR	-	-	2	4	2	8
12	JHARKHAND	-	-	1	2	6	9
13	KARNATAKA	3	-	-	3	11	17
14	KERALA	-	-	1	2	15	18
15	MADHYA PRADESH	2	-	1	5	11	19
16	MAHARASHTRA	4	5	18	17	11	55
17	MANIPUR	-	-	-	2	11	13
18	MEGHALAYA	2	-	-	1	4	7
19	MIZORAM	-	-	-	2	1	3
20	NAGALAND	-	-	1	-	3	4
21	ODISHA	1	-	-	3	3	7
22	PUDUCHERRY	-	1	1	1	-	3
23	PUNJAB	3	-	-	-	2	5
24	RAJASTHAN	2	-	1	4	7	14
25	TAMIL NADU	4	1	1	1	3	10
26	TELANGANA	1	1	2	-	5	9
27	TRIPURA	-	-	-	-	1	1
28	UTTAR PRADESH	6	-	1	2	8	17
29	UTTARAKHAND	2	2	4	-	1	9
30	WEST BENGAL	1	2	1	3	6	13
GRAND TOTAL		46	16	39	65	145	311
