

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1326

ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

ASSESSMENT OF POLLUTION IN RIVERS

†1326. SHRI NIHAL CHAND

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted/ proposed to conduct any assessment regarding the untreated dirty water and industrial waste flowing into the rivers of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether concrete steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government regarding any scheme in coordination with other Ministries to solve the said water related problem?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (c) Rivers in the country are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage from cities/towns/ local bodies and industrial effluents in their respective catchments, problems in operation and maintenance of sewage/ effluent treatment plants (STPs), lack of dilution and other non-point sources of pollution. Urbanization and Industrialization have compounded the problems. As per the report published by CPCB in March, 2021, sewage generation from areas in the country is estimated at 72,368 million litres per day (mld), against which a treatment capacity of 31,841 mld is available with the State/UT and an operational capacity of sewage treatment plant was found to be 26,869 mld.

It is the responsibility of the States/Union Territories (UTs), local bodies and industrial units to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into rivers and other water bodies, coastal waters or land to prevent and control of pollution therein.

For conservation of rivers, the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) has been supplementing the efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers in the country through the Central Sector Scheme of Namami Gange Programme for rivers in Ganga basin, and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for other rivers. In addition, sewerage infrastructure is created under programme like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affair.

Steps taken by the Government to stop discharge of industrial effluents into rivers *inter alia* include issuance of notification of specific discharge standards, revision of the criteria for categorization of industries and issuing directions to all SPCBs/PCCs to adopt the same, issuance of consent to establish/consent to operate by the SPCBs/PCCs, regular and surprise inspections of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) for compliance verification against stipulated environmental norms, and installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) for assessment of effluent quality and compliance status. In addition, the industries are encouraged to reduce their waste water generation by technological advancement, reuse/recycle of wastewater and maintain Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) where ever possible.

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, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take punitive action for non-compliance under provisions of these Acts.

Besides, in compliance of the orders of 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 action plans is undertaken in the States/UTs and also at Central level.
