

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2638

ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

NRCP IN TAMIL NADU

2638. SHRI RAMALINGAM S.

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken/interventions by the National River Conservation Directorate regarding abatement of pollution of identified polluted stretches of river Cauvery under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) during the last three years; and
- (b) the actions taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the sewerage infrastructure, rural sanitation, bioremediation, industrial pollution abatement and riverfront development in Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) This Ministry, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), has been supplementing efforts of the States/Union Territories (UTs) by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers, excluding Ganga and its tributaries, on cost sharing basis between Central and State Governments. Pollution abatement works admissible under NRCP include setting up of sewage treatment plants (STPs), laying of sewerage networks, interception and diversion works, crematoria, construction of bathing ghats, afforestation, etc. Proposals for consideration under the NRCP are received from the States/UTs from time to time and sanctioned based on their prioritization, conformity with guidelines, availability of Plan funds, etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement projects for conservation of River Cauvery in Tamil Nadu were sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.263.76 crore in 9 different towns namely Bhiwani, Erode, Karur, Kumarapalayam, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai, Pallipalayam, Trichirappalli and Trichy. 10 sewage treatment plants (STPs) with a total capacity of 161.41 million liters per day (MLD), along with low cost sanitation, river front development, bathing ghat, afforestation, etc. have been completed for conservation of River Cauvery in Tamil Nadu. In the last three years, no project has been sanctioned under this scheme in Tamil Nadu.

Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing process. As 'Water' is a State subject, it is the responsibility of States/UTs, Local Bodies and Industrial units to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents before discharging into rivers and other water bodies, land or coastal waters for prevention and control of pollution therein.

As per the Provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units and local bodies are required to install Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs)/ Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) respectively and treat their effluents/sewage to comply with stipulated environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies. Accordingly, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take punitive action for non-compliance under the provisions of these Acts.

Additionally, in compliance with 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.
