

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2302

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

RISING POLLUTION IN RIVERS

†2302. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment regarding rising pollution in major rivers of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the level of the pollution found in each river as per the reports available with the Government;
- (c) the details of the funds spent and the measures taken to contain the pollution in major rivers of the country including the Ganges and Yamuna during the last five years; and
- (d) whether the level of pollution has receded in rivers after the measures taken by the Government and if so, the comparative details of the level of pollution in major rivers of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the State Pollution Control Boards/Committees in different States/Union Territories (UTs) has been monitoring the water quality of rivers and other water bodies 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. As per the last report published by CPCB in November 2022, 311 polluted river stretches (PRS) were identified on 279 rivers based on monitoring results in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution. State and river-wise details of pollution level can be accessed at:

<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=UmVwb3J0RmlsZXMvMTQ5OF8xNjcyOTg4MDQ1X21lZGhhcGhvdG8xMjk5NS5wZGY=>

(c) Cleaning and rejuvenation is a continuous process, and Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of States/Union Territories (UTs) in addressing the challenge of pollution of rivers 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 for rivers in Ganga basin, and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for other rivers. During the last five years, under NRCP, an amount of Rs. 1037.17 crore has been released to State/UT

Governments for various pollution abatement works, and 273 million liters per day (MLD) sewage treatment capacity has been created. Similarly, in the last five years, under the Namami Gange Programme, Rs. 10798.58 crore has been released to the concerned Ganga river basin States, and 2258.92 MLD sewage treatment capacity has been created.

(d) As per the reports published by CPCB, in 2018, water quality of 521 rivers was monitored, of which, 323 rivers with 351 PRS were identified. However, in 2022, PRS were reduced to 311 on 279 rivers when scope of water quality monitoring was expanded to 603 rivers. Comparative details of pollution levels during last two assessments done (in 2018 & 2022) are as below:

Category	Pollution load in terms of BOD (milligram per litre)	Polluted river stretches (2018)	Polluted river stretches (2022)
Priority I	More than 30.0	45	46
Priority II	20-30	16	16
Priority III	10-20	43	39
Priority IV	6-10	72	65
Priority V	3-6	175	145
Total		351	311
