

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2052

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

POLLUTED RIVER STRETCHES

2052. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

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

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal has identified polluted stretches in various rivers in various States including in Odisha and Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to clean polluted river stretches has not been implemented till now;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof, State-wise, particularly Maharashtra and Odisha along with the reasons for not implementing the NGT order;
- (e) whether the Ministry has devised any appropriate mechanism for more effective monitoring of steps taken for control of pollution and rejuvenation of all polluted river stretches in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for control of pollution and rejuvenation of all polluted river stretches in the country in mission mode?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (f) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in different States/Union Territories (UTs), including Maharashtra and Odisha, have 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). Pollution assessment of rivers is carried out by CPCB from time to time based on water quality monitoring results in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, an indicator of organic pollution. As per the latest CPCB report published in November 2022, 311 polluted river stretches have been identified on 279 rivers. River-wise details of polluted river stretches identified can be accessed at: <https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=UmVwb3J0RmlsZXNvMTQ5OF8xNjcyOTg4MDQ1X211ZGlhcGhvdG8xMjk5NS5wZGY=>

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, including Odisha and

Maharashtra, concerned States/UTs are implementing Action Plans for restoration of the polluted stretches in their jurisdiction as identified by CPCB and published in their report of 2018. River Rejuvenation Committees (RRCs) have been constituted by State Governments/UTs for preparation and implementation of approved Action Plans, 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.

The action plans cover various aspects such as source control (municipal sewage management, industrial pollution control, waste management), river catchment/basin management (adoption of good irrigation practices, utilization of treated sewage, ground water recharge aspects), flood plain zone protection and its management (setting up of bio-diversity parks, removal of encroachments, rain water harvesting, plantation on both sides of the river) and ecological/environmental flow (e-flow). As per Hon'ble NGT orders, the approved action plans are monitored under the overall supervision and coordination of Chief Secretary of the concerned State/Union Territory, covering all aspects.

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.

Cleaning of river is a continuous process. The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and Union Territories in addressing the challenges of pollution of rivers by providing financial and technical assistance through schemes like National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and Namami Gange Programme (NGP).

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