

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2457
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

Periyar River Basin Conservation Project

2457. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Periyar River Basin Conservation Project;
- (b) whether the Government has adopted an action plan to mitigate industrial and other sources of pollution in the Periyar River under the project; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c)

National River Conservation Directorate under Ministry of Jal Shakti initiated efforts towards monitoring and conserving the ecological integrity of six Indian rivers, including Periyar river. The project titled 'Assessment of the Ecological Status of select Indian rivers for Conservation Planning' in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun aims to comprehensively evaluate the ecological status including assessment of the impact of toxic pollutants in aquatic biodiversity.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors water quality of River Periyar at 12 locations under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) in association with the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

During the year 2018 based on exceedance of Bathing Water Quality Criteria of BOD (exceeding 3 mg/L), CPCB identified Polluted River stretch of River Periyar from Alwaye-Eloor to Kalamassery in Kerala under Priority class V (BOD 3.2 - 5.1). Similarly, during the year 2022, CPCB identified Polluted River stretch of River Periyar along Alwaye-Eloor, along Purappallikavu and along Kalamassery in Kerala under Priority class V (BOD 3.9).

For rejuvenation of polluted river stretches identified in 2018 including River Periyar, action plans were prepared by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted by the respective State

Government/UT Administration including the state of Kerala, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB fit for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 mL).

The action plan covers 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), Ecological/Environmental Flow (E-Flow) and Watershed management.

Implementation of time-bound action plans have been assigned to State Government Departments/ UT Administration Departments for rejuvenation of polluted river stretches identified in the respective State/UT. Progress of implementation of action plans is reviewed by the RRC at State Level and Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) at Central Level.
