

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1432
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2022

MONITORING OF RIVER POLLUTION

1432. KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA SHRI ANTO ANTONY SHRI P.C. MOHAN	SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN
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Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps towards implementing the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) with respect to establishing a mechanism for effective monitoring of river pollution and river rejuvenation, namely the National River Rejuvenation Mechanism (NRRM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set a timeline to ensure full compliance and for such a mechanism to be fully functional and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has the details of polluted rivers in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the factors that determine the pollution in rivers;
- (e) the steps taken for mitigation of pollution of the rivers and achievements made so far; and
- (f) the details of rivers in Kerala along with the rate of pollution in them?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (c): The National Green Tribunal (NGT) vide its order/judgement dated 22.02.2021, in Original Application No 673 of 2018 has inter-alia directed that Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) may devise an appropriate mechanism for more effective monitoring of steps for control of pollution and rejuvenation of all polluted river stretches in the country. The said mechanism may be called “National River Rejuvenation Mechanism” (NRRM) or given any other suitable name.

The NGT’s Order/judgement dated 22.02.2021 has not stipulated any time line for constituting the NRRM.

(d) to (f): Various reasons for causing pollution in river is discharge of untreated sewage, industrial effluent, dumping of Municipal/Biomedical waste, runoff from agricultural fields, non-compliance of e-flows, encroachment in the flood plain zone etc. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 351 river stretches in the country as polluted river stretches, based on the information furnished by the State Government/UT Administrations. The categorization of “Polluted Stretches” have been done based on “BOD Levels” in the river.

The “Action Plans” for taking up measures for river rejuvenation including identification/improvement of sewage network, connecting of drains / interception and diversion and setting up of STPs, identification of flood plain zones, maintaining e-flow were drawn by River Rejuvenation Committees (RRC) under the Chief Secretary of the concerned State Government/UTs Administration.

The plan are monitored at the State and also at Central level through the Central Monitoring Committee. As per the last report published by CPCB in March, 2021, a total existing Sewage Treatment Capacity in the country is 31841 MLD.

Central government also supplement the efforts of state govt for various pollution abatement work and river rejuvenation works through central sector scheme “Namami Gange Programme” for Ganga basin state and central sponsored scheme under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and sanctioned based on their prioritization, conformity with Programme guidelines, availability of plan funds, etc.

Under Namami Gange Programme, a comprehensive set of interventions such as wastewater treatment, solid waste management, river front management (ghats and crematoria development), e-flow, afforestation, biodiversity conservation and Public Participation etc. have been taken up for rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries. So far, a total of 363 projects have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 30,841.53 Crore, out of which 177 projects have been completed and made operational. Majority of the projects pertain to creation of sewage infrastructure as the untreated domestic/industrial wastewater is the main reason for pollution in the river. 160 sewerage infrastructure projects have been taken up with a cost of Rs. 24,567.82 Crore for creation & rehabilitation of 5,024 MLD of STP capacity and laying of around 5,227 KM sewerage network. Among these, 75 sewerage projects have been completed resulting in creation & rehabilitation of 1,163 MLD of STP capacity and laying of 3,807 KM sewerage network.

NRCP has so far covered polluted stretches on 34 rivers in 77 towns spread over 16 States in the country with a sanctioned cost of Rs.5961.75 crore, and inter-alia, a sewage treatment capacity of 2677 Million Litres per Day (MLD) has been created.

River Pamba of Kerala is included under NRCP. In Kerala, 4.50 MLD STP capacity has been created at Pamba town for Pollution abatement of river Pamba with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 18.45 crore.

The detail of polluted river stretches in Kerala as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report of September, 2018 is as below:

S. No.	River	Priority	Stretch	BOD Range (mg/l)
(i)	Bharathapuzha	IV	Along Patambi	6.6
(ii)	Bhavani	V	Along Elachivazhy	5.4
(iii)	Chitrapuzha	V	Irumpanam to Karingachira	4.6
(iv)	Kadalundy	V	Along Hajirappally/ Hajjiarpalli	3.6
(v)	Kadambayar	IV	Manckakadavu to Brahmapuram	5.9-6.4
(vi)	Kallai	V	Thekepuram to Arakkinar	4.5
(vii)	Karamana	I	Malekkdu to Thiruvallam	56.0
(viii)	Karuvannur	V	Along Karuvannur	3.5
(ix)	Kavvai	V	Along Kavvai	3.9
(x)	Keecheri	IV	Puliyannor to Kechery	6.4
(xi)	Kuppam	V	Thaliparamba to Velichangool	3.1-3.8
(xii)	Kuttiyady	V	Along Kuttiyady	5.0
(xiii)	Manimala	IV	Kalloopara to Thondra	6.3-6.4
(xiv)	Mogral	V	Along Mogral	3.1
(xv)	Pamba	IV	Mannar to Thakazhy	3.3-7.8
(xvi)	Periyar	V	Alwaye-eloor to Kalamassery	3.2-5.1
(xvii)	Peruvamba	V	Along Peruvamba	3.9
(xviii)	Puzhackal	V	Olarikkara to Puzhackal	3.8
(xix)	Ramapuram	V	Along Ramapuram	3.3
(xx)	Thirur	V	Naduvilangadi to Thalakkadathur	3.6
(xxi)	Uppala	V	Poyya to Mulinja	3.2
