

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2955

ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

PROTECTION OF EXTINCT/ENDANGERED RIVERS

†2955. SHRI RAKESH RATHOR

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to protect the extinct/endangered rivers in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government also proposes to protect the rivers which are on the verge of extinction in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has a plan to protect the Sarayan river flowing through Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) It is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies. The Government of India provides financial and technical support to the States and ULBs under various programs like Namami Gange for the rejuvenation and conservation of River Ganga and its tributaries, National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for river basins other than Ganga and Atal Mission for rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

As per the report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) published in 2022, a total of 603 rivers in the country were monitored, and it was found that a total of 311 river stretches of 279 rivers were polluted.

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has so far covered 57 rivers, including small rivers namely, Nambul at Manipur, Rani Chu at Sikkim, Zuari at Goa, etc. spreading over 17 States in the country with a sanctioned cost of ₹ 8931.49 crore, and inter-alia, a sewage treatment capacity of 2941 million litres per day (MLD) has been created.

Under the Namami Gange Programme for rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries, a total of 203 number of sewerage infrastructure projects costing ₹ 32,513 crore have been sanctioned for the

creation & rehabilitation of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with treatment capacity of 6,255 Million Litres per Day (MLD). Sewage Treatment Capacity of 3327 MLD has been created.

As informed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), for rejuvenation of polluted river stretches identified, action plans have been prepared and are monitored by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted by the State Government. Prepared action plans 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.

The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh vide letter dated 05.04.2022 has issued directions for the restoration and rejuvenation of 50 small rivers in the State of Uttar Pradesh through MGNREGA programme at the district level, under the supervision of District Ganga Committees. Vide this order, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner comprising the members of 10 State Departments and Agencies to take up the restoration and rejuvenation of small rivers by converging resources available under MGNREGA.

(c) & (d) Action Plan for restoration of Sarayan river in Sitapur district has been prepared by State Government. This Plan includes plantation of trees, construction of ponds, restoration of drains, solid waste management, water harvesting and other conservation related works.

It has been informed by the State Government that 1,90,700 plants have been planted in the year 2022-23, 1,20,500 plants in the year 2023-24 and 27,200 plants in the year 2024-25 in the 05 km radius on the Sarayan river.
