

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 158**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**Faecal Coliform Levels in Ganga River**

\*158. SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA:  
SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently that the quality of water at the confluence of river Ganga and Yamuna at Prayagraj, during the Maha Kumbh, is failing to meet the primary standards for bathing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with faecal coliform levels from Haridwar to Hugli, location-wise;
- (c) the reasons for such high level of faecal coliform in Ganga water;
- (d) whether the CPCB has recently published any report stating that faecal coliform levels at all monitored locations were above the permissible limit of 2,500 units per 100 ml, indicating significant sewage contamination, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the action taken by the Government on the said issue as the State Government of Uttar Pradesh failed to maintain water quality in Prayagraj; and
- (f) the details of fund allocated, released and utilised for cleaning river Ganga during 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 till 9th March, 2025, year-wise and State-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*158 DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.03.2025 REGARDING “FAECAL COLIFORM LEVELS IN GANGA RIVER” BY SHRI ANAND BHADARIA AND SHRI K SUDHAKARAN: HON’BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.**

**(a) to (d):**

The Hon’ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the matter of Kamlesh Singh Vs State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. in OA No. 310/2022 with M.A No. 59/2024 in OA No. 56/2024 vide order dated 23.12.2024 directed the following:

*“During the Maha Kumbh 2025 regular monitoring of the water quality of the river Ganga and Yamuna is necessary at frequent intervals to meet primary water quality criteria.”.*

In pursuance to above order of Hon’ble NGT, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) carried out regular water quality monitoring at seven locations (twice a week) in the stretch from Shringverpur ghat (upstream of Prayagraj) to Deehaghat (downstream of Prayagraj) including at Sangam nose (confluence point of river Ganga and Yamuna) since 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 covering auspicious bathing (Amrit Snan) days including pre and post days of such auspicious bathing days.

Thereafter, CPCB submitted its initial monitoring report dated 03.02.2025 before Hon’ble NGT wherein, the river water quality data collected during 12<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 including monitoring data of 10 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) installed at Prayagraj and 07 Geosynthetic Dewatering Tubes (Geo-tube) filtration was reported.

Further, CPCB added three more water quality monitoring locations and increased monitoring frequency to twice daily with effect from 21.02.2025 to augment availability of water quality data, thus taking the total number of water quality monitoring locations to 10.

A comprehensive report dated 28.02.2025 was submitted before Hon’ble NGT in compliance of order dated 23.12.2024.

As per the said report, median value of pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliform (FC) for all the monitored locations was within the respective criteria/permissible limits for bathing water.

**(e):** Initiatives taken by State Government of Uttar Pradesh to maintain the water quality for Green Maha Kumbh 2025 were as follows:

- i. 10 STPs were installed to treat wastewater ensuring that effluents meet environmental standards before being released.
- ii. 07 geotubes were installed as interim remedial measure for waste water treatment of 21 untapped drains.
- iii. Three pre-fabricated temporary STPs were installed, each with capacity of 500 KLD in the Mela area.
- iv. Three Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) with total capacity 200KLD (100 KLD, 50 KLD, 50 KLD) were installed.
- v. The UP Jal Nigam used advanced oxidation techniques to treat wastewater, preventing untreated water from entering the Ganga River.

- vi. Adequate number of toilets and urinals were established across the Mela area to accommodate the large number of pilgrims.
- vii. Adequate number of dustbins, each equipped with liner bags were strategically placed and were available for waste disposal.
- viii. The event was supported by a dedicated team of sanitation staff and a fleet of adequate number of tippers, hoppers and refuse compactors were deployed for efficient waste transportation.
- ix. Two Bio-composting plants of 600 TPD and 300 TPD capacity were in operation.
  - x. Campaigns like 'Plastic Unmulan Mahaabhiyan' and 'Arambh ' were undertaken with the aim to eliminate single-use plastics.
  - xi. Eco-friendly alternatives, such as 10 lakh traditional leaf plates (dona-pattal), were distributed to replace plastic items.
  - xii. A 'one bag, one thali' drive was undertaken to encourage pilgrims to use reusable cloth bags and steel plates, distributing 1.5 million steel plates and 2 million cloth bags to reduce waste generation.
  - xiii. Jute and cloth bags were made available free of cost in the Mela area. Further clay kullad , dona pattal pltaes, dona pattal bowl, bio-degradable disposable cups, plates & bowls are provided in the area.
  - xiv. Every local shop was provided with 02 dustbins under drive- 'Every Shop A Touch'. Bag vending machines were placed along with plastic bottle crushers.

**(f)** : Namami Gange Programme was launched in June 2014 for a period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to rejuvenate River Ganga and its tributaries. The programme was subsequently extended up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026.

The year-wise details of the amount allocated and released by the Government of India to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and amount disbursed by the NMCG to various agencies for implementation of projects/ interventions to abate pollution, as well as to rejuvenate river Ganga and its tributaries during financial year (FY) 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (till 03<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025) are at **Annexure I**.

The State-wise amount disbursed to various agencies including State Missions for Clean Ganga, for implementation of projects/interventions in the states under the Namami Gange Programme during FY 2022-23, 2023-24 and in 2024-25 (till 03<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025) is at **Annexure-II**.

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**Annexure I**

**Year-wise details of the amount released by the Government of India to NMCG and amount disbursed by NMCG to various implementing/ executing agencies (FY 2022-23 to till 03 March 2025)**

Rs. in crore

<b>F.Y.</b>	<b>Budget Provisions (RE)</b>	<b>Funds released by Government of India to NMCG</b>	<b>Disbursement/Release by NMCG</b>
2022-23	2,500.00	2,220.00	2,258.98
2023-24	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,396.10
2024-25	3,000.00	2,801.60	2,051.66*
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,900.00</b>	<b>7,421.60</b>	<b>6,706.74</b>

\* up to 03<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025

**Note:-**

- (i) *NMCG fully transited to the Treasury Single Account (TSA) system from the financial year 2022-23. Prior to TSA, grants released to the NMCG by the Government of India were non-lapsable.*
- (ii) *Disbursement by NMCG in 2022-23 includes unspent grants carried forward from previous years.*

## Annexure II

### Yearly disbursement under Namami Gange Programme and State-wise Financial Year 2022-23 to 03<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025

Sl. No.	States	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
		(Rupees in crore)		
1	Uttarakhand	111.72	144.40	82.12
2	Uttar Pradesh	707.44	820.74	999.38
3	Bihar	873.39	878.96	333.98
4	Jharkhand	4.75	32.60	97.23
5	West Bengal	255.52	150.88	229.72
6	Madhya Pradesh	-	12.50	39.67
7	Delhi	77.33	161.18	-

**Note 1:** State-wise disbursements indicated above include funds released to (i) State Missions for Clean Ganga for Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and associated infrastructure, (ii) State Forest Departments for Afforestation Projects, (iii) STP Projects implemented on Hybrid Annuity Mode, (iv) Central Public Sector Enterprises for River Front Development (RFD)/Ghat Projects, and (v) Industrial Pollution Abatement Projects.

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