

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *217

ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

POLLUTION LEVEL OF RIVERS IN MAHARASHTRA

*217. SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE

SMT. SHAMBHAVI

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

- (a) whether the Government has any comprehensive data on the pollution levels of rivers in the country including Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof indicating the most severely affected rivers;
- (b) the details of the primary sources of pollution in rivers of the country including Maharashtra along with the efforts made/being made to tackle industrial waste, sewage discharge and plastic pollution in these water bodies;
- (c) the details of specific initiatives undertaken by the Government to clean and rejuvenate polluted rivers in the country including Maharashtra;
- (d) the details of the financial allocation made for river cleaning projects and the actual expenditure incurred during the last five years in the country including Maharashtra; and
- (e) the details of long-term policies formulated/being formulated to prevent further river pollution and ensure sustainable water resource management in the country including Maharashtra keeping in view the rapid urbanization and industrialization?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *217 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “POLLUTION LEVEL OF RIVERS IN MAHARASHTRA”

(a) to (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with Pollution Control Boards/Committees in different States/Union Territories (UTs) has been monitoring water quality of rivers and other water bodies across the country through a network of monitoring stations under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme. Based on water quality monitoring results, pollution assessment of rivers is carried out by CPCB from time to time.

As per the last report published by CPCB in November 2022, 311 polluted stretches were identified on 279 rivers based on monitoring results in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand, an indicator of organic pollution. These include 53 stretches in Maharashtra. CPCB report may be accessed through following link:

<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=UmVwb3J0RmlsZXMvMTQ5OF8xNjcyOTg4MDQ1X21lZGlhcGhvdG8xMjk5NS5wZGY=>

Rivers in the country including Maharashtra are mostly polluted due to discharge of untreated and partially treated domestic sewage from cities/towns and Urban Local Bodies, industrial effluent in their respective catchments, lack of dilution, dumping of wastes and other non-point sources of pollution.

Cleaning/rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing process. It is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies. For conservation of rivers, the Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of the rivers in the country through Central Sector scheme of “Namami Gange” for the rivers in Ganga basin, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for other rivers. Apart from this sewerage infrastructure is created under programs like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. In Maharashtra, the Government of India has sanctioned two projects for Pollution abatement of Mula Mutha river at Pune and Nag river at Nagpur at cost of Rs.990.26 crore and Rs.1926.99 crore, respectively.

Discharge of industrial effluents is monitored by CPCB and the respective State Pollution Control Boards/Committees, and in case of non-compliance with the prescribed norms, actions are taken in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Details of the total amount of funds allocated and utilized/released for the cleaning of rivers across the country during the last five years under NRCP and Namami Gange are given below:

(Rs. crore)

Financial Year	NRCP		Namami Gange	
	Budget Allocated	Funds Released	Budget Allocated	Funds Released
2019-20	153.00	136.66	1553.44	2673.09
2020-21	100.00	99.87	1300.00	1339.97
2021-22	217.68	202.32	1900.00	1892.70
2022-23	450.00	449.05	2500.00	2258.98
2023-24	432.01	411.01	2400.00	2396.10
Total	1352.69	1298.91	9653.44	10560.84

In addition to the ongoing schemes Namami Gange, NRCP, and AMRUT, the States/UTs are putting efforts into pollution abatement of the river. States/UTs have prepared the action plans for the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB in compliance with National Green Tribunal orders and got their action plan approved from the competent authority. For monitoring, the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India.

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