

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1504

ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

RIVER REGULATION ZONE POLICY

1504. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL

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

- (a) the current status of the draft River Regulation Zone (RRZ) policy and the timeline for its finalisation and implementation;
- (b) the extent of stakeholder consultations conducted in developing the Draft RRZ policy, including input from State Governments, environmental experts and local communities;
- (c) the measures included in the policy to prevent encroachment and pollution in river floodplains;
- (d) the role envisioned for State Governments and local bodies in implementing and enforcing the RRZ regulations; and
- (e) the plans, if any, for integrating the RRZ policy with existing environmental regulations and river conservation programmes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (e) Regulation of rivers through identifying River Conservation/Regulation Zones, has the primary objective to conserve flood plains and to impose regulations on different activities on the river banks. Land and water, both being the State subjects, it is primarily for the respective States/ Union Territories to take proactive steps for regulation of rivers within their jurisdiction.

The Govt. of India has been supplementing efforts of the States/ Union Territories by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in rivers/tributaries in Ganga basin through the Central Sector Scheme of Namami Gange Program, and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan for other rivers in the country.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), Government of India formulated a Draft River Regulation Zone (RRZ) under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and circulated to all the State/UT Governments on 08.01.2016. The notification intends to prohibit, restrict as well as regulate certain activities in the river conservation zones in order to conserve and protect river ecosystem in the country. The MoEF&CC received comments from some of the State and UTs.

As per amendment in Business allocation rules of Government of India, vide Gazette Notification S.O. 1972 (E) dated 14.06.2019, the work related to formulation of guidelines for management of river fronts including flood plains by evolving a River Regulation Zone (RRZ) is now being handled by Ministry of Jal Shakti.

In continuation of this, Central Water Commission, Department of Water resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has drafted the Technical Guidelines for Flood Plain Zoning and circulated to States and UTs. States and UTs are being encouraged to take up Flood Plain Zoning, and access to Central assistance & support on flood management is conditional on the States and UTs demonstrating progress on Flood Plain Zoning.
