

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1809
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

Rejuvenation of Cauvery River

1809. SHRI YADUVEER WADIYAR:

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated for river conservation under National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) in the State of Karnataka, district wise;
- (b) the steps being taken to clean and rejuvenate the Cauvery and its tributaries in Mysuru;
- (c) whether any initiatives have been introduced to reduce pollution from agricultural runoff, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being implemented to protect Kodagu's forest and streams from encroachments and pollution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a)to (d)

The Govt. of India has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution other than Ganga and its tributaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the country. States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies. Proposals for pollution abatement works in the towns along polluted river stretches are received from the States/UTs from time to time for consideration under NRCP and sanctioned based on their prioritization, conformity with NRCP guidelines, availability of plan funds, etc. The assistance is provided to State Governments/UTs for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers (excluding river Ganga and its tributaries) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) on cost sharing basis between the Central & State Governments/UTs for taking up various pollution abatement works relating to interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front/bathing ghat development, etc.

Scheme taken-up under NRCP programme are aimed primarily at reduction in pollution load in rivers. Apart from improvement in water quality of rivers leading to better public health and ecology of the river systems, the pollution abatement works taken up under NRCP help to improve the aesthetics & sanitation in the towns and in maintaining a cleaner environment. Under NRCP, pollution abatement works were sanctioned in 9 towns (between 1975 -2010) in the State of Karnataka. Details are as follows:

Town	River	Sanctioned cost (in crore)	STP Capacity created (in MLD)	No. of STP Set up
Bangalore	Pennar	46.27	0	0
Bhadravati	Bhadra	3.76	5.83	1
Davangere	Tungabhadra	4.66	19.45	1
Harihara	Tungabhadra	2.49	8.84	1
K. R. Nagar	Cauvery	0.57	1.45	1
Kollegal	Cauvery	1.08	3.34	1
Nanjangud	Cauvery	2.23	1.37	1
Shimoga	Tunga	3.70	0	0
Srirangapatna	Cauvery	1.44	1.36	1
Total		66.2	41.64	7

CPCB identifies Polluted River Stretches (PRS) based on the water quality data of rivers, the stretches of rivers not meeting the Primary Water Quality criterion of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (indicator of organic pollution) for outdoor bathing is considered. The BOD value exceeding 3 mg/l is identified as polluted stretch. The PRS are further classified under Priority Class I through V, Priority I being most polluted (BOD value > 30 mg/l) and Priority V least polluted (BOD value between 3 – 6 mg/l). The status report is put up in public domain and shared with respective SPCBs/PCCs for taking necessary corrective measures w.r.t abatement of water pollution.

The comprehensive action plans have been prepared for rejuvenation of identified PRS by River Rejuvenation Committees (RRC/s) constituted by the respective State Government/UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State /Union Territory. The action plans for PRS under Priority I to IV were reviewed and approved by Task Team headed by Member Secretary, CPCB. The action plan covered flood plain zone protection and its management including the removal of encroachments. Based on the water quality data monitored in 2016 and 2017, the stretch from Ranganathittu to Sathyamangalam bridge of river Cauvery in the state of Karnataka was identified as PRS under priority IV. The progress of the implementation of action plans is reviewed by the RRCs at State Level and Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti at Central Level.

Based on the water quality data monitored in 2019 and 2021 (2020 being COVID year was excluded) the stretch of river Cauvery along Rangapattanna in the state of Karnataka was identified as PRS under priority V. Further, this Ministry along with regulatory agencies and State Forest Department take all regulatory and preventive measures to protect Kodagu's forest and streams from encroachments and pollution.
