

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4797**

ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025

**CRITICALLY POLLUTED RIVER STRETCHES**

4797. DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO:

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

- (a) the current number of Critically Polluted River Stretches (CPRS) where Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) exceeds 30 mg/l in Maharashtra;
- (b) the reasons for which the 35% of CPRS identified in the National River Conservation Plan show worsening pollution despite funds allocated for their cleaning up;
- (c) the specific measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Ganga's water quality during large religious gatherings such as the Kumbh Mela in view of recent concerns highlighted in media reports regarding pollution spikes and ecological stress during such events; and
- (d) whether any penalties have been imposed on the industries/polluters in these stretches under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) & (b)** As per the latest Report on 'Polluted River Stretches for Restoration of Water Quality' published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2022, , in Maharashtra, the BOD level exceeded 30 milligrams per litre (mg/l) at 4 polluted river stretches.

CPCB identifies polluted river stretches in the rivers across the country in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) under National Water Quality Monitoring programme. Implementation of various pollution abatement programmes, including NRCP scheme, has led to a reduction in the number of Polluted River Stretches (PRS) from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022. Further, 106 PRSs have been delisted and improvement in the water quality of 74 polluted river stretches has been observed as compared to the 2018 report.

**(c)** The Government, through the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and in coordination with the concerned State Governments, implements a series of preventive and mitigative measures to safeguard the water quality of river Ganga during large religious gatherings such as the Kumbh Mela, Ardh Kumbh and Magh Mela.

These measures include partial financial assistance, augmentation of sewage treatment infrastructure, provision of adequate temporary sanitation facilities, establishment of solid waste management systems, regulation of effluent discharges from Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) and organising continuous water quality monitoring. Awareness campaigns to sensitise pilgrims and deployment of enforcement teams to check polluting activities at Prayagraj.

Besides, Prayagraj Mela Authority prepared a comprehensive Sanitation Plan for Maha Kumbh 2025 that included Service Level Benchmarks (SLBs) to ensure accountability and performance, Post-Mela sanitation measures and laying of temporary drainage lines.

In addition, based on the post event learnings, corrective actions and planning improvements are implemented for future events including enhanced reuse strategies, improved disinfection protocols and structured redeployment of sanitation infrastructure.

Further, the CPCB carried out water quality monitoring at five stations (twice a week) from 12th January 2025 to 20th February 2025 during Maha Kumbh 2025 at Shringverpur Ghat, Lord Curzon Bridge, Nagvasuki Mandir, Sangam and Deeha Ghat, covering auspicious bathing (Amrit Snan) days.

**(d)** As per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974, all industrial units and other establishments generating trade effluents, are required to comply with the stipulated standards before discharging into rivers and water bodies. CPCB, SPCBs/ PCCs monitor industries to ensure compliance of the provisions of the said Acts, and take necessary action accordingly.

As per CPCB, there are total 4,538 industries under GPIs. Out of which, 3672 number of industries were operational and 866 industries had closed down on their own. Amongst the operational industries, 3064 industries were reported to be complying with the environmental standards, while show-cause notices issued to 571 industries and closure directions issued to 36 non-complying industries. In addition, penalty has been imposed on 01 industry.

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