

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

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*80**

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

**ECOLOGICAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT OF THAMIRABARANI RIVER**

**\*80. SHRI ROBERT BRUCE C:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any recent assessment of the water quality, ecological health and flow sustainability of Thamirabarani river in Tamil Nadu, particularly in its stretch passing through Tirunelveli district and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of Central funds sanctioned, released and utilised under programmes such as the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) for river conservation, pollution control and groundwater recharge initiatives connected with Thamirabarani basin during the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of challenges related to declining flow patterns affecting the river and dependent communities in southern Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen river rejuvenation measures, ensure strict enforcement of pollution-control norms and enhance Central monitoring of ecological and hydrological parameters of the Thamirabarani river?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. \*80 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “ECOLOGICAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT OF THAMIRABARANI RIVER”**

**(a)** Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is a continuous process. It is the primary responsibility of the States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure proper treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharge into rivers, other water bodies, coastal waters or land.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report on ‘Polluted River Stretches for Restoration of Water Quality’ through National Water Monitoring Program (NWMP), based on assessment of water quality carried out in 2022 & 2023 i.e 5 different locations/ stretches from Tirunelveli Downstream Side (D/S) To Kallidai - Kurichi, Tirunelveli on the Thamirabarani River, the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels was ranging between 4.0 mg/L to 6.2 mg/L, placing the river stretch under Priority-IV category. As per inputs received from CPCB, based on sampling taken at 9 locations in Tirunelveli District in 2024 through SPCB, the BOD level is ranging from 2.0mg/L to 3.1mg/L which is showing decrease in BOD levels, which means, an improvement in water quality.

**(b)** Under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), one Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of capacity 24.20 million litres per day (MLD) was set up between 2001 – 2007 at Tirunelveli with a cost of Rs 54.93 crore, for pollution abatement river Thamirabarani. Atal Bhujal Yojana is not implemented in Thamirabarani river basin. During the last 05 years several groundwater recharge works have been undertaken by the State Government under MGNREGS Scheme in the Districts falling under Thamirabarani River Basin. Funds under JJM are not maintained Basin wise.

**(c)** The annual run-off pattern depends on the rainfall pattern and the climatic conditions of a particular region. As per the Central Water Commission, the annual average run-off of the Thamirabarani River at the Murappanadu site in Tamil Nadu is 22 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) for the period 2014-15 to 2024-25. However, the majority values of the actual run-off varies around this average.

**(d)** The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation has informed that Tamil Nadu Government have formulated proposals for setting up of STPs, Solid Waste Management, Biological Parks, etc. to contain pollution in Thamirabarani River and River Rejuvenation work is also monitored through River Rejuvenation Committee at State level. Central Pollution Control Boards/SPCB/Pollution Control Committee monitors river water quality and industries to ensure compliance of the provisions of Environment Protection Act,1986 and Water(Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act,1974. Central Water Commission monitors hydrological parameters of the river through three Hydrological Observatories in Thamirabarani River.

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