

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 27

ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

CRITICALLY POLLUTED RIVER STRETCHES IN MAHARASHTRA

27. Dr. KIRSAN NAMDEO:

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

- (a) the current number of Critically Polluted River Stretches (CPRS) in Maharashtra where Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) exceeds 30 mg/l;
- (b) whether thirty five per cent of CPRS identified under the National River Conservation Plan show worsening pollution levels despite allocation of funds for their rejuvenation and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the specific measures taken to protect the water quality of river Ganga during large religious gatherings such as the Kumbh Mela in view of recent concerns reported in the media regarding pollution spikes and ecological stress during such events; and
- (d) whether penalties have been imposed on industries or other polluters in these river stretches under the Water (Prevention and 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 2025, in Maharashtra, at 2 Polluted River Stretches Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) level exceeded 30 milligrams per litre (mg/l) .

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 National River Conservation Plan scheme, has led to a reduction in the number of Polluted River Stretches (PRS) from 351 in 2018 to 296 in 2025. The report further shows that 149 PRS in 22 States/UTs have been delisted and 71 PRSs located in 20 States/UTs have shown improvement in river water quality between 2018 and 2025. There is also showing 18 percent reduction in Critical Polluted River Stretches from 45 (in 2018) to 37 (in 2025) .

(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 mitigation 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 organizing continuous water quality monitoring. Awareness campaigns to sensitize 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 learning's, 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 4,498 industries under GPIs. Out of which, 3637 number of industries were operational and 861 industries had closed down on their own. Amongst the operational industries, 3036 industries were reported to be complying with the environmental standards, while show-cause notices issued to 571 industries, closure directions issued to 29 non-complying industries, and a directive was issued to one unit.
