

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4406

ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN

4406. Adv GOWAAL KAGADA PADAVI:

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

- (a) the objectives, scope and implementation framework of the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) including the rivers covered in Maharashtra, specifically those flowing through or impacting the ecological and livelihood landscape of Nandurbar Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (b) the details of the projects sanctioned under NRCP during the last five years along with the Constituency-level details where applicable in Maharashtra including sewage treatment plants, riverfront development works, pollution abatement measures and afforestation initiatives;
- (c) the total funds allocated, released and utilised for NRCP projects in Maharashtra, particularly in Nandurbar Lok Sabha Constituency, year-wise and the reasons for any delays or underutilisation of funds;
- (d) the measurable outcomes achieved under NRCP including improvements in water quality parameters, biodiversity restoration and community participation supported by monitoring data; and
- (e) whether the Government has documented any success stories or best practices from NRCP implementation in Maharashtra that may serve as models for other river conservation projects and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The objective of the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is to improve the water quality of rivers, excluding Ganga and its tributaries, through the implementation of pollution abatement works in various towns located mainly along the polluted stretches of rivers, as identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in States/Union Territories (UT) including Maharashtra. Through the Central Sponsored Scheme of NRCP, efforts of State Governments/ UT Administrations are supplemented in conservation of rivers by providing financial assistance on cost sharing basis for implementation of pollution abatement works mainly, Interception & Diversion, sewage treatment plant (STP), faecal sludge treatment plant, river front development, afforestation, etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement projects have been taken up for conservation of rivers namely Krishna at Karad; Panchganga at Kolhapur; Godavari at Nanded, Nashik, Trimbakeshwar; Tapi at

Prakkasha in Nandurbar; Mula-Mutha at Pune; and Nag at Nagpur at a sanctioned cost of Rs.3109.85 crore. So far, STP capacity of 334 million litres per day (MLD) has been created in Maharashtra.

In the last five years, a project for pollution abatement of Nag River at Nagpur, Maharashtra has been sanctioned under the NRCP. The project includes creation of 102 MLD sewage treatment capacity, 520 kilometres of sewer network, as well as crematoria and cattle shed facilities.

(c) For the ongoing projects in Pune and Nagpur constituencies of Maharashtra, so far, a Central share of about Rs. 674.56 crore and Rs. 167.44 crore has been released, respectively. No project has been received from the State Government for consideration under NRCP for the Nandurbar Lok Sabha Constituency during last five years. Reasons for delay in execution of the above projects may be attributed to delay in appointment of Project Management Consultant by state, cancellation of tender on account of high bids, land acquisition, local challenges, etc.

(d) & (e) As per the CPCB Report of 2025, number of polluted river stretches (PRS) in the country has decreased from 351 in 2018 to 296 in 2025. Further, 149 PRS have been delisted and improvement in water quality is observed in 71 PRS. In case of Maharashtra, improvement in river water quality has been observed where the number of Priority-I stretches has comparatively reduced from 9 to 2, Priority II from 6 to 5 and Priority-III from 14 to 9, in 2025.

Cleaning of rivers is a continuous process. Water is a 'State' subject and it is the primary responsibility of States/UTs to ensure proper treatment of sewage to the prescribed standards before discharge into the rivers or other water bodies in their catchments. So far, NRCP has covered 58 rivers in 100 towns spread over 17 States including Maharashtra at a total sanctioned cost of Rs 8970.51 crore and sewage treatment capacity of 3019 MLD has been created.
