

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4412

ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

IMPROVEMENT IN RIVER WATER QUALITY

4412. SHRI KARTI P CHIDAMBARAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognisance of continuing pollution levels in the river Ganges despite ongoing interventions under the Namami Gange Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the current status of water quality at major monitoring stations, stretch-wise;
- (c) the total sewage generation in towns located along the Ganges basin vis-à-vis the operational sewage treatment capacity created so far and the gap therein; and
- (d) the time-bound and coordinated action plan proposed by the Government to ensure sustained improvement in river water quality standards?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a), (b) & (d) The Government of India (GoI) launched the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) in 2014-15 for the rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries for five years, up to March 2021 and has been further extended to March 2026. As of January 2026, a total of 524 projects have been sanctioned at a cost of 42,964 crores, out of which 348 projects have been completed. The majority of these projects pertain to the creation of sewage infrastructure, as untreated domestic and industrial wastewater is the primary cause of pollution in the river. A total of 218 sewerage infrastructure projects have been taken up at a cost of 35,729 crores for the creation and rehabilitation of 6610 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity. 138 sewerage projects have been completed, resulting in the creation and rehabilitation of 4,050 MLD of STP capacity.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), carries out manual water quality monitoring of the river Ganga at 112 locations across five Ganga main-stem States- Uttarakhand-19; Uttar Pradesh-41; Bihar-33; Jharkhand-04; and West Bengal-15. As per CPCB report on Polluted River Stretch (PRS) 2025, the following information about Ganga main stem pollution is available:

Ganga Main Stem – State-wise Comparison (2018 vs 2025)

State	2018 Polluted Stretch	Priority (2018)	2025 Polluted Stretch	Priority (2025)	Trend/Observation
Uttarakhand	Haridwar → Sultanpur	IV	No PRS	—	Improved and PRS stretch removed

Uttar Pradesh	Kannauj → Varanasi	IV	Bijnor → Tarighat	IV / V	Partially improved
Bihar	Buxar to Bhagalpur	V	Bhagalpur D/S→ Khalgaon D/S	V	Marginal pollution remains
Jharkhand	No PRS	—	No PRS	—	—
West Bengal	Triveni → Diamond Harbour	III	Baharampore → Diamond Harbour	V	improved

Based on the water quality data (median values) of the river Ganga for the year 2025 (January to August), the following observations are made:

- i. pH & Dissolved Oxygen (DO) are the most critical parameters of river health. The pH & DO of River Ganga meet the required norms for bathing criteria at all the locations of River Ganga.
- ii. Water quality of river Ganga is conforming with the bathing criteria w.r.t. Bio- chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in the entire stretch of river Ganga in Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Bihar & West Bengal, except the following locations/stretches:
 - Farrukhabad to Purana Rajapur, Kanpur.
 - Dalmau, Raebareli.
 - D/s Mirzapur to Tarighat, Ghazipur (except two locations namely U/s Varanasi, After confluence Gomti & U/s Ghazipur) in Uttar Pradesh.

As per the biomonitoring conducted during 2024-25 at 50 locations along river Ganga and its tributaries and 26 locations along River Yamuna and its tributaries, the biological water quality (BWQ) predominantly ranged from 'Good' to 'Moderate'. The presence of diverse benthic macro-invertebrate species indicates the ecological potential of the rivers to sustain aquatic life.

Cleaning of river is a continuous process and Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution in river Ganga and its tributaries by providing financial and technical assistance under Namami Gange Programme.

(c) The approx. quantity of sewage generated from river Ganga front towns vis-a-vis installed capacity of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), State-wise is as follows:

State	Approx. Sewage Generation in Ganga front towns (MLD)	Installed capacity of STPs (MLD)
Uttarakhand	239.8	346.8
Uttar Pradesh	1255.2	1499.0
Bihar	480.0	400.0
Jharkhand	12.0	15.5
West Bengal	1571.5	716.3
TOTAL	3558.5	2977.5

Approximately 3558.5 MLD (Million liters per day) sewage is generated in Ganga-front towns for which STPs with capacity of 2977.5 MLD have been installed and operational capacity is 2813 MLD. In addition, in Kolkata, East Kolkata Wetland caters to around 900 MLD of sewage treatment.
