

Pollution levels in river Ganga

911. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CPCB has found that pollution levels in river Ganga, in its stretch as in States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar remained as polluted in 2018, as it was in 2014 and in Uttarakhand as it became more polluted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CPCB had submitted this report in June, 2018 but it was not made public;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, if not, whether the report is available in public domain; and

(e) details of findings of the report and action taken by Government to act on the findings of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH):

(a) and (b) Under the Namami Gange Programme, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out the water quality monitoring of river Ganga. The observed water quality of last 4 years of river Ganga indicates that Dissolved Oxygen which is an indicator of river health has been found to be within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and satisfactory to support the ecosystem of river across all seasons and also for almost entire stretch of river Ganga.

Due to various pollution abatement initiatives taken by the Government under the Namami Gange Programme, the river water quality assessment has shown improvement in consecutive years. The water quality assessment in 2018 has shown improved water quality trend as compared to 2017. The Dissolved Oxygen levels have improved at 36 locations, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Faecal coliforms have decreased at 42 and 47 locations, respectively.

CPCB had carried out biological water quality monitoring (BWQM) in States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal along main stem of river Ganga from Haridwar Barrage, Uttarakhand to Garden Reach, West Bengal from 2014 to 2018. A draft report based on preliminary biomonitoring study was prepared on the basis of biological parameters using benthic macro-invertebrates as indicator organisms following Biological Water Quality Criteria (BWQC). However, BWQC has not been notified by the Government. BWQC is qualitative criteria

rather than quantitative and making any inference on qualitative assessment requires detailed collaboration with physico-chemical quality findings also which is quantitative parametric monitoring.

(c) and (d) Yes, as informed by CPCB, a draft report was prepared in June, 2018 and was placed on CPCB website as per orders of the Honourable Supreme Court in December, 2018.

Besides, the water quality monitoring is carried out on monthly basis by CPCB with the help of State Pollution Control Boards and also put up in public domain at CPCB website

(e) Findings of Report:—

As per the assessment in the draft report, the biological water quality assessment has remained stable in the entire stretch in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Moderate Pollution category; BWQC Class C) during 2014 and 2018. In Uttarakhand stretch, biological water quality assessment was carried out at 3 locations *viz.* Haridwar barrage, upstream and downstream of Jagjeetpur STP outfall. At Haridwar barrage, biological water quality improved from slight pollution during 2014-16 to Clean (BWQC Class A) in 2017-18. At other 2 locations that is at Jagjeetpur STP, gradual deterioration in water quality was observed due to pollution/surface runoff.

Action taken by the Ministry

River Cleaning is a continuous process. Various coordinated activities meant for cleaning of river Ganga for rejuvenation, protection and management of river Ganga basin, have been taken up under Namami Gange Programme, since May 2014. These include treatment of municipal sewage, treatment of industrial effluent, drain bio-remediation, river surface cleaning, rural sanitation, river front development, construction of Ghats and crematoria, afforestation and biodiversity conservation, public outreach etc. So far a total of 266 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹ 26,356.41 crores.

Out of these 266 projects, 166 projects pertains to Pollution abatement projects *viz.* sewage infrastructure, rural sanitation, industrial pollution abatement, bio-remediation projects. Further, 64 projects of river front development, ghat and crematoria; 22 projects of biodiversity, afforestation; 13 other projects *viz.* institutional development, research study project, composite ecological task force are undertaken by NMCG.