

Poor performance in World Water Quality Index

3287. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that India ranks 120 out of 122 countries, according to a World Water Quality Index by WaterAid in 2019; and

(b) if so, whether Government has formulated a comprehensive plan to improve India's water quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action taken and plan for improvement of water quality are as under:

- The Central & State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to prevent and control river pollution as well as to restore water quality.
- Regulation of industrial Pollution is implemented through various provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by issuing consent to establish and consent to operate by the respective State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Pollution Control Committee (PCC).
- The Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) are established on industrial units in the country through the directives issued by CPCB for getting real time information on the effluent quality and non-complying unit are identified for corrective action.
- CPCB has stipulated general discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection), Rules 1986 so as to prevent pollution of the water bodies.
- An Inter-Ministerial Group for Arsenic Mitigation has been constituted on 22.12.2014 and last meeting of the Group was held on 20.11.2019 wherein all members agreed to aggravate efforts for improvement in water quality.
- Namami Gange Programme has been launched for effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga and National River Conservation Plan has been launched to improve water quality of other rivers.

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies.
- Data on ground water quality available with CGWB are shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures.
- Awareness generation programs/workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution and safe use of contaminated water are conducted periodically by CGWB.

Desiltation of Damodar river

3288. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken for desiltation of rivers in West Bengal;
- (b) whether Government is planning for desiltation of river Damodar; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to forecast floods and rehabilitation work undertaken during post flood periods in the State of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Erosion and deposition of silt is a natural process in alluvial rivers. Rivers pickup, carry and drop silt load as per their regime conditions *i.e.* discharge in the river, river slope, morphology, nature of silt etc. The issue of desilting of rivers has been considered by Government since long and in this context a multi-disciplinary Committee headed by Former Chairman, Central Water Commission in 2002 (Mittal Committee) has opined that large scale desilting of rivers in general is not feasible technically due to several reasons like non-sustainability, non-availability of vast land required for the disposal of dredged material etc.

The measures for flood management including desilting of rivers are formulated and implemented by the State Government as per their priority. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government by providing technical advise and promotional financial assistance for critical areas.

State Government of West Bengal has informed that desiltation of Mundeswari river for a stretch of 14 km in Hooghly district is part of recently launched (February 2020) World Bank funded "West Bengal major Irrigation and Flood Management Project"