

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1523
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN RIVERS

1523 SHRI BIKASH RANJAN

Will the MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has recognized sixty polluted river stretches based on bio-chemical oxygen demand in different North Eastern States according to the latest India's Environment report; and
- (b) if so, the details of the effective steps taken by Government to address the continuing water crisis and reduce pollution in rivers, river stretch-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is regularly monitoring the water quality of rivers & other water bodies in the country through a network of monitoring stations. As per CPCB report of September, 2018, 351 polluted river stretches have been identified on 323 rivers based on monitoring results in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand(BOD) levels, an indicator of organic pollution. Details of polluted river stretches in the North-Eastern States are given below:

STATE	Priority I (>30 mg/l)	Priority II (20-30 mg/l)	Priority III (10-20mg/l)	Priority IV (6-10 mg/l)	Priority V (3-6 mg/l)	Total
Assam	3	1	4	3	33	44
Manipur		1			8	9
Meghalaya	2			3	2	7
Mizoram			1	3	5	9
Nagaland	1		1	2	2	6
Sikkim					4	4
Tripura					6	6
Total	6	2	6	11	60	85

Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is a continuous process and Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and Union Territories in addressing the challenges of pollution of rivers by providing financial and technical assistance through schemes like National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and Namami Gange. State-wise details of rivers covered in North Eastern States under National River Conservation Plan are given below:

S. No.	State	Rivers covered	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in crore)	Sanctioned STP (sewage treatment plant) capacity (in mld)	STP capacity created so far (in mld)
1	Manipur	Nambul	97.72	17.00	-
2	Sikkim	Rani Chu	371.11	23.37	20.12
3	Nagaland	Diphu and Dhansiri	82.80	25.43	-
Total			551.63	65.80	20.12

In addition, sewerage infrastructure is created under programs like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

As per the Provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units are required to install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and treat their effluents to comply with stipulated environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies. Accordingly, CPCB, SPCBs and PCCs monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under provisions of these Acts.

Steps taken by the Government to stop discharge of industrial effluents into rivers inter alia, include issuance of notification of specific discharge standards, revision of the criteria for categorization of industries and issuing directions to all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to adopt the same, issuance of consent to establish/consent to operate by the SPCBs/PCCs, based on Comprehensive Environment Pollution Index (CEPI) critically polluted areas are identified to take necessary measures through time-targeted Action Plans, regular inspections of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) by CPCB for compliance verification, installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) for assessment of effluent quality and compliance status. In addition, the industries are encouraged to reduce their waste water generation by technological advancement, reuse/recycle of wastewater and maintain Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) where ever possible.

Besides, in compliance of the orders of National Green Tribunal in OA No.673/2018, concerned States are implementing Action Plans for restoration of water quality in the identified polluted stretches of rivers in their respective States.
