

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2979#
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

SCHEME FOR CLEANING UP OF RIVERS, PONDS AND DRAINS

2979 # SHRI NARHARI AMIN

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any integrated scheme for cleaning up the rivers, ponds and drains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) to (c) Rivers and other water bodies in the country are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage from cities/towns and industrial effluents in their respective catchments. It is the responsibility of the States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into rivers, water bodies or land to prevent and control of pollution therein.

At present there is no integrated scheme in the Government of India for cleaning rivers, ponds and drains. Based on the assessment of water quality, various measures are being taken both by the Central and the State Government to prevent pollution of rivers and drains out-falling into them. River cleaning is a continuous process and the Central Government assists the State Governments and urban local bodies through schemes like 'Namami Gange' and National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti as well as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, etc. Discharge of industrial effluents is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Besides, in compliance of the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Original Application (OA) No.673/2018 regarding polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs are required to implement action plans for restoration of the said stretches, including in-situ treatment of the drains out-falling into the polluted river stretches, in their jurisdiction within the stipulated timelines. As per the orders of NGT, regular review is undertaken in the States/UTs and also at Central level.

Ministry of Jal Shakti is also implementing the scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies. Under the scheme of RRR of water bodies, one of the main scope of works is desilting of tank bed along with other multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing tank storage capacity, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture/horticulture productivity, improvement of catchment area of tank commands, etc. In addition, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is providing financial assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems' for conservation of identified lakes and wetlands in the country.