

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 85
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION ON BANK OF RIVER GANGA

85 # Shri Ramkumar Verma

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that by the order of "National Green Tribunal", any commercial construction on the bank of river Ganga and especially its tributaries, within the radius of 100 metres from the center point of the rivers has been banned, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that even at present illegal construction is being carried on along the tributaries of river Ganges, especially on the bank of rivers of Yamkeshwar tehsil of Pauri, Garhwal, if so, the details thereof and the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

- (a) The National Green Tribunal(NGT) vide its order/judgment dated 10.12.2015, in OA No 200 of 2014-M.C. Mehta vs Union of India and ors. has inter-alia directed that as an interim measure, at least 100m from middle of the river would be treated and dealt with as 'Eco sensitive and prohibited zone'. No activity whether permanent or temporary in nature will be permitted to be carried on in this zone including camping.

The area beyond 100 meters and less than 300 meters would be treated as regulatory zone in the hilly terrain, for which the State will comply with the above directions. The area upto 200 meters shall be the prohibited area in the plain terrain and more than 200 meters and less than 500 meters would be treated as regulatory zone.

Area/river bank/flood plain 2 kms. upstream to Rishikesh and till Border of the State of Uttarakhand towards Uttar Pradesh in river Ganges would be treated as plain terrain while upstream to the above terrain as hilly terrain.

Further vide its order dated 15.12.2017, Hon'ble NGT has directed that no construction would be permitted in the Flood Plain in consonance with the judgement of the Tribunal in the case of Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action Vs. National Ganga River Basin Authority & Ors. Hon'ble NGT reiterated that in the area falling within 50 mtrs from edge of the river in the hilly terrain, no construction would be permitted, nor any other activity carried out and it shall be treated as Prohibitory Zone. Beyond 50 mtrs and up to 100 mtrs in the hilly terrain it shall be treated as Regulatory Zone. Regulatory activity

shall be notified by the State and till that time there shall be no construction activity permitted in that area. Once the river enters the plain or even hilly areas where width of the river is more than 70 mtrs, in that event area of 100 mtrs from the edge of the river shall be treated as Prohibitory Zone while 100 mtrs to 300 mtrs would be treated as Regulatory Zone and till the time the State notifies the restricted activities, there shall be no construction activity even in the Regulatory Zone.

(b) The compliances/action taken on the directions of Hon'ble NGT regarding illegal construction/encroachments along river Ganga & its tributaries for the Demarcation of Flood plain zones and preventing encroachments thereof are given below:

S.No	Stretches of flood plain zones areas proposed.	Status of Initial Notification	Nos. of encroachers in FPZ
1	Bhagirathi	Notified	6 no's in Uttarkashi
2	Bhilangana	Notified	-
3	Alaknanda	Notified	-
4	Mandakini	Notified	-
5	Ganga	Notified	13 no's in Haridwar

Notification of river Alaknanda, Bhagirathi, Bhilangana, Mandakini, Saraswati and Ganga has been issued as per "The Uttarakhand Flood Plain Zoning Act, 2012". Flood Plaining Zone (FPZ) notification for districts Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal & Chamoli in river Bhagirathi, Bhilangana, Alaknanda [reach Mana to Taulilagarano / Kameda in district Chamoli and Srinagar dam to Devprayag {right bank} reach in district Tehri Garhwal] and river Ganga [reach Devprayag to Muni-ki-Reti in district Tehri Garhwal **(including Yamkeshwar Tehsil of Pauri Garhwal)**] has been issued by Government of Uttarakhand.

Further scope of flood plain zoning in 1st phase for 13 rivers about 955 km and in 2nd phase for 9 rivers about 1151 km have been identified.

In District Uttarkashi, 06 Nos. of encroachments has been removed in flood plain notified area and in Haridwar district, 13 nos. of encroachment has been identified till date, and process of de-encroachment initiated in the "Court of District Flood Plain Zoning Authority".
