

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 891**  
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022

**PRESENCE OF MICROPLASTICS IN RIVERS**

891 SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of presence of microplastics in rivers harmful for fish and aqua life and loss estimated till date since last five years, river wise; and
- (b) the details of various studies done by researchers who are trying to understand how microplastics enter the rivers and its affect on others along with corrective steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) & (b)** Rivers, lakes, wetlands 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, poor operation and maintenance of sewage/effluent treatment plants, lack of dilution, dumping of solid waste on their banks and other non-point sources of pollution. Rapid urbanization and industrialization have compounded the problems by not only increasing the load of traditional pollutants flowing into the river, but also adding new contaminant like plastics/micro-plastics.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) studied the presence of microplastics in River Ganga sediment at Buxar, Patna, Bhagalpur, Nabadwip, Barrackpore and Frazergunj in the year 2019 and found microplastic fragments in the range of 99 to 410 per kilogram of sediment.

Under Namami Gange programme, a study has been awarded to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in February, 2022 to monitor emerging pollutants (EPs) including micro-plastics in river Ganga on annual basis, from its origin to its confluence with the Bay of Bengal.

ICAR-CIFR, Namami Gange and Wildlife Institute of India has conducted several awareness campaigns along the riverbanks and in a number of schools on the harmful effect of microplastics in the rivers, and importance of proper disposal of single use plastics to minimize the plastic load in aquatic environments.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban, has launched “Clean Green Campaign” with massive citizen participation for effective management of plastic waste and to ensure enforcement of ban on specific single use plastic (SUP) items. As on 1st July, 2022, all the 35 States/Union Territories have notified the SUP ban.

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