

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 84**

ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

**POLLUTION LEVELS OF RIVER GANGA**

84. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pollution levels in the river Ganga have increased in the last five years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the most polluted sections of the Ganga; and
- (d) the steps being taken to make Ganga pollution-free and the timeline for the same?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJBHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) to (c)** As per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), manual water quality monitoring of river Ganga is carried out at 112 locations across five Ganga main-stem States- Uttarakhand-19; Uttar Pradesh-41; Bihar-33; Jharkhand-04; and West Bengal-15. CPCB identifies polluted river stretches (PRS) based on the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level, and put them into five Priority Classes (I to V) based on BOD level observed.

Priority Class	BOD Observed in mg/l
I	> 30
II	20-30
III	10-20
IV	6-10
V	3-6
<b>Desirable BOD &lt; 3mg/l</b>	

Accordingly, the PRSs on river Ganga based on the assessment carried out in 2022 (2019 & 2021 data) by CPCB, are as under:

- a. In Uttar Pradesh, Farrukhabad to Allahabad & Mirzapur to Ghazipur in - Priority Class V
- b. In Bihar, along Buxar, Patna, Fatwah and Bhagalpur - Priority Class IV
- c. In West Bengal, Behrampur to Haldia - Priority Class IV

The PRSs on river Ganga, based on 2023 data, have changed from Priority class III/IV to V, thus indicating decrease in pollution level. The existing PRSs in 2023 are as under:

- a. In Uttar Pradesh, Farrukhabad to Kanpur D/s- Priority Class III; Dalmau, Raebareilly to Kalakankar, Pratapgarh- Priority Class V; Dheemi, Pratapgarh- Priority Class V; D/s Mirzapur to Chunar- Priority Class V; Varanasi D/s to Tarighat, Ghazipur- Priority Class V
- b. In Bihar- Bhagalpur D/s- Priority Class V
- c. In West Bengal, Dakshineswar to Diamond Harbour- Priority Class V

**(d)** The Government of India (GoI) launched the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) in 2014-15 for five years, up to March 2021, and has been further extended up to March 2026. The steps taken by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under NGP to make the Ganga pollution-free are as follows:

- i. As of June 2024, **a total 467 number of projects** (including sewage infrastructure) have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹39,080.70 crore, of which 292 projects have been completed and made operational;
- ii. A total of 200 number of **sewerage infrastructure projects** costing ₹32,070 crore have been taken up for the creation & rehabilitation of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with treatment capacity of 6,217.15 Million Litres per Day (MLD) including laying of 5,282.39 km long sewerage networks. Of them, 120 STPs with a capacity of 3,241.55 MLD have been completed along with 4,527.48 km long sewerage network;
- iii. For **industrial pollution abatement**, 5 nos. of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) have been sanctioned, i.e., Jajmau CETP (20 MLD), Banther CETP (4.5 MLD), Unnao CETP (2.65 MLD), Mathura CETP (6.25 MLD) and Gorakhpur CETP (7.5 MLD). Two projects- Mathura CETP (6.5 MLD) and Jajmau CETP (20 MLD) have been completed;
- iv. Annual inspection of **Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs)** operating in Ganga main-stem States and its tributaries has been undertaken since 2017. These efforts have resulted in reduction in BOD load from 26 tonnes per day (TPD) in 2017 to 13.73 TPD in 2022, and about 28.6 % reduction in effluent discharge from 349 MLD in 2017 to 249.31 MLD in 2022;
- v. At NMCG, an on-line dashboard **“PRAYAG”** has been operationalized for continuous monitoring of river water quality; the performance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs); etc. on the Ganga and Yamuna River;
- vi. A total no. of 139 **District Ganga Committees (DGC)** have been constituted which conducts 4M (Monthly, Mandated, Minuted, and Monitored) meetings regularly. As of June, 2024, more than 3,032 meetings have been conducted;

- vii. In coordination with the selected DGCs, **District Ganga Plans** for 4 districts in Ramganga Basin, i.e., Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand; & Shahjahanpur, Moradabad and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh have been prepared to foster decentralized planning and better participation of people in river basin management;
- viii. For the **conservation of wetlands**, 4 projects have been sanctioned in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand at a cost of ₹12.53 crore;
- ix. NMCG through the State Forest Department has implemented a forestry intervention projects along the main stem of river Ganga. 31,494 Hectares area have been afforested with an expenditure of about ₹ 347 crore;
- x. A total of 105 lakhs of **Indian Major Carp (IMC)** fingerlings have been reared in the Ganga since 2017 to conserve fish biodiversity and prey base for river Dolphins, and ensure the livelihood of fishers in the Ganga basin under the special project implemented by Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI);
- xi. Science-based **species restoration programme**, rescue, and rehabilitation programme for aquatic species like Dolphins, Otters, Hilsa, Turtles, and Ghariyal in collaboration with Wild Life Institute of India (WII), Dehradun and State Forest Department have shown marked improvements in biodiversity with increased sightings of Dolphins, Otters, Hilsa, Turtles, and other riverine species;
- xii. **Ganga Task Force (GTF)** was raised in the state of Uttar Pradesh to assist NMCG in carrying out its mandated task such as (a) Plantation of trees to check soil erosion, (b) Management of Public Awareness / Participation Campaigns, (c) Patrolling of Sensitive Rivers Areas for Biodiversity Protection, (d) Patrolling of Ghats, etc;
- xiii. A cadre of Ganga Doots (45,000 Nos), Ganga Praharis (2,900 Nos) and Ganga Mitra (700 nos) are involved in public **participatory activities**;
- xiv. Comprehensive **public awareness campaigns** have undertaken to instill a sense of responsibility and engagement among the public in efforts to clean and conserve the Ganga River. These include – Ganga Utsav, Nadi Utsav, regular cleanathons and plantation drives, Ghat Par Yoga, Ganga Aartis, etc. The efforts are also supported by dedicated cadres of Ganga saviours, such as Ganga Praharis, Ganga Vihar Manch, Ganga Doots, etc.

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