

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1518

ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

CURRENT POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE GANGA RIVER

1518. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI

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

- (a) the details of the current pollution levels in the Ganga River;
- (b) the measures being taken to regularly monitor and reduce pollution levels in the Ganga River;
- (c) the current pollution level in the Ganga River as compare to the levels recorded in the last five years;
- (d) the details of the projects sanctioned under the Namami Gange Programme, including their objectives, timelines, and the current status of their implementation; and
- (e) the details of the budget allocated and the expenditure incurred under the Namami Gange Programme for the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (c) Central Pollution Control Board (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
Desirable BOD	< 3mg/l

Accordingly, the PRSs on river Ganga based on the assessment carried out in 2022 (2019 & 2021 data), 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. Uttarakhand does not fall under polluted stretch (BOD <3mg/l);

- b. In Uttar Pradesh, Farrukhabad to Kanpur downstream- Priority Class III; Dalmau, Raebareilly to Kalakankar, Pratapgarh- Priority Class V; Dheemi, Pratapgarh- Priority Class V; downstream of Mirzapur to Chunar- Priority Class V; Varanasi downstream to Tarighat, Ghazipur- Priority Class V ;
- c. In Bihar- Bhagalpur downstream - Priority Class V
- d. Jharkhand does not fall under polluted stretch (BOD <3mg/l);
- e. In West Bengal, Dakshineswar to Diamond Harbour- Priority Class V

(b) The measures taken by the National Mission for Clean Ganga under Namami Gange Programme for regularly monitor and to reduce pollution level of river Ganga & its tributaries are as follows:

- i. 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 5,282.39km 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;
- ii. 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;
- iii. 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;
- iv. 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;
- v. 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;
- vi. 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;
- vii. 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;
- viii. NMCG through the State Forest Department has implemented a **forestry intervention** project along the main stem of river Ganga. 31,494 Hectares area have been afforested with an expenditure of about ₹ 347 crore;

- ix. 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);
 - x. 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;
 - xi. **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;
 - xii. A cadre of Ganga Doots (45,000 Nos), Ganga Praharis (2900 Nos) and Ganga Mitra (700 nos) are involved in public **participatory activities**;
 - xiii. Construction of independent household toilets in **4,507 identified villages** in the five River Ganga states has been completed. All these Ganga bank villages have now been declared open defecation-free (**ODF**). Further till date, 3,679 no's of Ganga villages have been declared ODF sustainability (**ODF Plus**);
 - 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 Vichar Manch, Ganga Doots, etc.
- (d)** Government of India (GoI) launched the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) in 2014-15 for the rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 20,000 crore, for five years, up to March 2021 and has been further extended to March 2026 with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 22,500 crore. Till June 2024, a total of 467 projects have been taken up at an estimated cost of ₹ 39,080.70 Crore, out of which 292 projects have already been completed and made operational. The details of the projects are enclosed in **Annexure-I**.
- (e)** Government of India has released ₹ 9,373.40 crore to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in the last five financial years (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24) as budgetary support for rejuvenation of River Ganga. NMCG has disbursed ₹ 10,560.84 crore, including grants carried forward from previous years, to various agencies for implementation of projects/ interventions to rejuvenate river Ganga and its tributaries during the said period. The year wise details are enclosed in **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1518 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 05.08.2024 REGARDING “CURRENT POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE GANGA RIVER”.

Sl.No.	Type of Project	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Total Sanctioned Cost (₹. in Cr.)	No. of Projects Completed
1	Sewerage Projects	200	32,070.84	120
2	Ghats & Crematoria	108	1,808.59	82
3	Solid-Waste Management	12	295.26	9
4	Institutional Development	23	1,614.89	8
5	Research & Study	46	320.47	20
6	Biodiversity	15	338.63	7
7	Afforestation	37	537.33	32
8	Ecological Task Force	7	335.04	6
9	Bioremediation	18	338.39	7
10	Construction of Toilets	1	1,421.26	1
	Grand Total	467	39,080.70	292

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1518 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 05.08.2024 REGARDING “CURRENT POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE GANGA RIVER”.

The details of fund released by Govt. of India to NMCG and Disbursement/Release by NMCG

(₹. in crore)

F.Y.	Funds released by Government of India to NMCG	Disbursement/Release by NMCG
2019-20	1,553.40	2,673.09
2020-21	1,300.00	1,339.97
2021-22	1,900.00	1,892.70
2022-23	2,220.00	2,258.98
2023-24	2,400.00	2,396.10
Total	9,373.40	10,560.84

(* Utilization reported up to 30 June 2024)
