

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1634
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Cleaning of rivers

1634. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has prepared DPR for rejuvenation of 13 rivers in which 5 rivers of Punjab are included;
- (b) the details of the fund allocated and fund released for the rivers of Punjab under this project;
- (c) the details of the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB for the rivers of Punjab;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken towards cleaning those river stretches; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons, therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) :

Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has prepared a detailed project reports (DPR) for rejuvenation of 13 major rivers including rivers of Punjab namely Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum, Luni, Yamuna, Mahanadi, Brahmaputra, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery through Forestry interventions, in March, 2022. The total financial requirement to the interventions proposed in these thirteen DPRs for five years is Rs. 19,342.62 crores under 4 major components viz. (a) Implementation of Forestry Interventions, (b) Strengthening Knowledge Management and National Capacity Development, (c) Maintenance Phase including Scaling Up and Replication of Successful Models, and (d) National Coordination for Forestry Interventions and River Conservation.

Out of above stated 13 rivers, three rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlaj pass through Punjab. In the DPRs, the budget proposed for Punjab for the following rivers is given below.

- i. Ravi : Rs. 88.14 Crore
- ii. Beas : Rs. 152.33 crore
- iii. Sutlej : Rs. 191.66 crore

Central Pollution Control Board in coordination with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) has established a National Water Quality

Monitoring Programme (NWMP) under Control of Pollution Scheme of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, to plan policies for prevention and control of pollution. Currently under NWMP, 4736 locations are monitored in the country which includes, 2155 Rivers locations, 909 stagnant water bodies (558 Lakes, 151 Ponds, 102 Tanks) locations, 1233 Groundwater locations, 227 Marine locations and 212 other water bodies locations are monitored. In Punjab, presently, the water quality is monitored at 155 number of locations which includes 66 River locations, 23 stagnant water bodies locations (17 Lakes and 6 Ponds), 46 Groundwater locations and 20 other water bodies locations.

Based on the level of organic load which is measured in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) concentration, the Polluted River Stretches (PRS) have been categorized into Priority I to V wherein Priority I being most polluted with BOD value of more than 30 mg/l and Priority V being least polluted with BOD ranging between 3 – 6 mg/l. Based on the water quality data for the years 2016 and 2017, 351 polluted river stretches (“PRS”) were identified. Out of these PRS, 4 PRS have been identified in Punjab and the details of the same is provided as **Annexure I**.

For rejuvenation of identified PRS, comprehensive action plans have been prepared by River Rejuvenation Committee (“RRC”) constituted by the respective State Government/UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by the Answering Respondent as fit for bathing purposes. The action plans cover relevant aspects such as Source control (Municipal sewage management, Industrial pollution control, Waste management), River catchment/ Basin Management (Adoption of good irrigation practices, Utilization of treated sewage, ground water recharge aspects), Flood Plain Zone protection and its management (Setting up of bio-diversity parks, Removal of encroachments, Rainwater harvesting and Plantation on both sides of the river).

In the year 2022, based on water quality data for the year 2019 and 2021, 311 PRS were identified. Out of these PRS’s, 5 PRS have been identified in Punjab and the details of the same is provided as **Annexure II**.

Apart from above, government has taken following steps for prevention & control of water pollution in the water bodies.

- Government of India enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and various provisions under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection of water bodies and the Central & State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the provisions of both The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control pollution of aquatic resources.
- Government of India stipulated General discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with an aim to prevent pollution in the water bodies.
- CPCB issued directions on 21.04.2015 under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to SPCBs/PCCs regarding ‘Treatment & Utilization of Sewage’.
- CPCB issued directions on 09.10.2015 under Section 5 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to Municipal Corporations of 46 Metropolitan cities and 20 State Capitals regarding ‘Treatment and Utilization of Sewage for Restoration of Water Quality of River’.

- CPCB issued directions on 07.08.2020 under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974 to all SPCBs/PCCs regarding installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) for self-surveillance of Sewage Treatment Plants.
- CPCB has communicated on 15.2.2022 to Principal Secretaries of Urban Development Department for formulation of comprehensive action plans for sewage management in their respective States/UTs.

Details of PRS identified in Punjab during 2018

S. No.	RIVER NAME	RIVER STRETCH	MAX BOD OBSERVED (mg/L)	PRIORITY
1.	GHAGGAR	MUBARAKPUR TO SARDULGARH	380	I
2.	SATLUJ	RUPNAGAR TO HARIKA BRIDGE	108	I
3.	KALI BEIN	SULTANPUR LODHI TO CONF TO BEAS	9	IV
4.	BEAS	Along MUKERIAN	3.8	V

Details of PRS identified in Punjab during 2022

S. No.	RIVER NAME	RIVER STRETCH	MAX BOD OBSERVED (mg/ L)	PRIORITY
1.	GHAGGAR	MUBARAKPUR TO SARDULGARH	210.0	I
2.	SIRSA	ALONG BADDI	32.0	I
3.	SUTLEJ	LUDHIANA TO HARIKE	120.0	I
4.	KALI BEIN	AT MAND FATEHPUR	5.8	V
5.	SWAN	ALONG SANTOSHGARH	4.0	V
