

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 361**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

**Polluted rivers running through Tamil Nadu**

361. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the rivers running through Tamil Nadu are polluted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the river-stretches where it is most polluted;
- (c) whether action is being taken by the Pollution Control Board against polluting industries regarding release of untreated effluents into the rivers; and
- (d) if so, the details of cases registered during the last five years, year-wise, river-wise in the State of Tamil Nadu, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b)

Total 311 polluted river stretches (PRS) were identified in year 2022, based on the water quality data of year 2019 and 2021 by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Out of which, 10 PRS were identified in Tamil Nadu i.e. Priority I (4), Priority II (1), Priority III (1), Priority IV (1) & Priority V (3). Details of PRS identified in Priority I class are tabulated below.

S No.	River Name	Polluted River stretch/ location	Max BOD Observed	Priority Class
1.	Adyar	Tambaram to Nandanam	40.0	I
2.	Cooum	Avadi to Sathya Nagar	345.0	I
3.	Thirumanimuthar	Along Salem	56.0	I
4.	Vasishta	Along Salem	230.0	I

In year 2018, based on the water quality data of year 2016 and 2017, 351 polluted river stretches (PRS) were identified by CPCB. Out of which, 6 PRS were identified in Tamil Nadu State including Polluted Stretch of River Kaveri from Mettur to Mayiladuthurai under Priority Class I (BOD >30 mg/L).

For rejuvenation of 351 polluted river stretches identified by CPCB during the year 2018, action plans have been prepared by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted by the respective

State Government/ UT Administration, for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB fit for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 mL).

Action plans covers 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, Rain water harvesting, Plantation on both sides of the river), Ecological/Environmental Flow (E-Flow) and Watershed management. Progress of implementation of action plans is reviewed by the RRC at State Level and Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) constituted at Central Level.

(c) A Joint Committee was constituted with the officials from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), IRO (Integrated Regional Office), Chennai, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and representatives of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament. The Joint Committee inspected 44 dyeing units in Namakkal, Karur, Erode and Tiruppur districts of Tamil Nadu from June 2022 to August 2022. Based on the inspection report and non-compliance observed by the team, directions including show cause notices and closure directions have been issued by TNPCB to the 25 non-complying units.

Further, the State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees are regularly monitoring the textile / dyeing industries to ensure proper operation of the Effluent Treatment Plants. The SPCB/ PCC also stipulated certain conditions in the consent order with regard to treatment of wastewater generated from the industries with standards. Apart from the above, the measures taken by the government for prevention and control of water pollution are given below-

- 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. The Central & State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the provisions of both The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control pollution of aquatic resources.
- SPCBs/PCCs have been directed under Section 18(1) (b) of The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct concerned agencies in the State/UT to develop infrastructure for sewage treatment.
- 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 periodically issue directions to all the concerned departments in the States for management of sewage and waste water in accordance with the provisions notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and for ensuring proper operation of existing STPs, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and industrial pollution control, under Section 18 (1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as well as under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) No case has been registered by CPCB before any Tribunal/Court under the Air and Water Act from 2019 till date.

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