

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1009
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Decline in the number of aquatic organisms

1009. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

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

- (a) whether the number of aquatic organisms is declining day-by-day due to water pollution in many major rivers of the country including Ganga and Sone;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and river-wise; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government to deal with the said problem?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c)

There is no conclusive study indicating decline in number of aquatic organisms on day-to-day basis in major rivers of the country including Ganga and Sone.

The Government of India has taken several steps to control and prevent water pollution in rivers as given below:

- The Government of India enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection of environment including water bodies.
- The Central and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) 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.

- Regulation of industrial Pollution is implemented through various provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 under Consent mechanism by the respective SPCB / PCC.
- The Government of India has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in rivers/tributaries in Ganga basin through the Central Sector Scheme of Namami Gange Program, and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for other rivers in the country being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands (include lakes) in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State/UT Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in situ cleaning i.e. de-silting & de-weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, pollution abatement, catchment area treatment, etc.
