

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Cleaning of Polluted Rivers in Maharashtra

931. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) the measures being taken by the Union Government to make the rivers pollution free in the State of Maharashtra which have already been declared polluted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to direct the State Government and the authorities such as Krishan Khore Vikas Mahamandal, Vidarbh Vikas Mahamandal, Marathawada Vikas Mahamandal in the process of making such rivers pollution free;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any guidelines or manual have been prepared or likely to be prepared in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement in identified stretches of various rivers through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) by implementing various projects on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments including Maharashtra. Under the NRCP, for conservation and pollution abatement of rivers namely Godavari, Krishna, Panchganga, Tapi and Mula-Mutha, 32 schemes pertaining to Interception and Diversion (I&D) of sewage, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), crematoria, afforestation, public participation & awareness, etc have been sanctioned in 8 towns of Maharashtra at a cost of Rs. 1182.86 crore. Against these sanctioned projects, STPs of 258 million litres per day (mld) capacity have been created and a central grant of Rs 208.95 crore has been released for implementation of sanctioned schemes under NRCP in Maharashtra.

(c) to (e) For implementation of works under NRCP, various agencies are selected by State Government concerned. To de-pollute rivers, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the country to make it mandatory for local bodies to establish STPs of adequate capacity and provide sewerage system to cover the entire local/urban areas to ensure proper collection and transportation of sewage and bridge the treatment capacity gap alongwith enforcement of standards for sewage treatment. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to municipal authorities of 66 metropolitan cities and State capitals under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated for abatement of pollution of rivers.

Further, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi has passed an order on 20.09.2018 in Original Application (O.A) No. 673 / 2018 directing all the States and Union Territories (UTs) to prepare action plans for bringing all the polluted river stretches up to bathing standards. The 'River Rejuvenation Committee' (RRC) constituted by the concerned State Governments and Union Territories have been tasked to prepare and finalize the action plans.

In addition, Ministry has formulated guidelines for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for consideration of projects under NRCP.
