

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3287
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2020

POOR PERFORMANCE IN WORLD WATER QUALITY INDEX

3287. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that India ranks 120 out of 122 countries, according to a World Water Quality Index by WaterAid in 2019; and
- (b) if so, whether Government has formulated a comprehensive plan to improve India's water quality?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Action taken and plan for improvement of water quality are as under:-
- The Central & State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to prevent and control river pollution as well as to restore water quality.
 - Regulation of industrial Pollution is implemented through various provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by issuing consent to establish and consent to operate by the respective State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Pollution Control Committee (PCC).
 - The Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) are established on industrial units in the country through the directives issued by CPCB for getting real time information on the effluent quality and non-complying unit are identified for corrective action.
 - CPCB has stipulated general discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection), Rules 1986 so as to prevent pollution of the water bodies.
 - An Inter-Ministerial Group for Arsenic Mitigation has been constituted on 22.12.2014 and last meeting of the Group was held on 20.11.2019 wherein all members agreed to aggravate efforts for improvement in water quality.
 - Namami Gange Programme has been launched for effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga and National River Conservation Plan has been launched to improve water quality of other rivers.
 - Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies.
 - Data on ground water quality available with CGWB are shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures.
 - Awareness generation programs/workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution and safe use of contaminated water are conducted periodically by CGWB.
