

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2867  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2015  
Pollution in Rivers during Kumbh Mela  
Pal Shri Jagdambika

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any research to study the pollution levels and the harm caused to the rivers during Kumbh Mela;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to address this problem; and
- (d) if so, the details of the measures taken and timelines set along with progress achieved in this regard till date?

**Answer**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION  
(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a)&(b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and UP State Pollution Control Board monitor the water quality of river Ganga and Yamuna at identified locations at Sangam, Allahabad during Kumbh Mela to ensure that water quality at Sangam meets with the bathing norms.

Water quality of Ganga and Yamuna rivers gets affected at Sangam because of mass bathing and other religious activities apart from discharge of sewage (partially treated/ untreated) from Allahabad city.

(c)&(d) To ensure that water quality at Sangam meets with the bathing norms, CPCB along with SPCBs, conducts intensive monitoring of the tributaries/ sub-tributaries of river Ganga and the industries discharging into these water bodies. Action is taken against the non-compliant units under the Water Act 1974 and the Environment (P) Act, 1986.

Other steps taken to maintain the water quality at Sangam include;

- i. Control of sewage discharges into the river
- ii. Banning of polythene use in Sangam Areas during Kumbh.
- iii. Control of industrial pollution
- iv. Promotion / Mass Awareness for avoiding offering of flowers during Kumbh.
- v. Maintaining adequate flow in the river.

\*\*\*\*\*