

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4315
ANSWERED ON 18.07.2019

REJUVENATION OF MAHANANDA RIVER

4315. SHRI RAJU BISTA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the lifeline of Siliguri Mahananda River is dying due to utter neglect and is in need of urgent river rejuvenation program on the lines of Namami Gange project and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the towns of Darjeeling, Siliguri, Kalimpong, Kurseong and Mirik and the entire areas of Matigara and Phansidewa are suffering from acute water shortage since 2008; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 351 river stretches in the Country including one stretch of River Mahananda from Siliguri to Binaguri in West Bengal have been identified as polluted based on water quality monitoring in the years 2016 and 2017. The criteria of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level was considered for identification and prioritization of polluted river stretches in the country. River Mahananda is categorised under Priority Class II i.e. BOD value ranging from 20 – 30 mg/l. West Bengal Govt. has prepared an action plan for rejuvenation of polluted river stretch of River Mahananda which has been approved by CPCB Team. West Bengal Govt. is required to ensure its execution within 2 years (from 1st April, 2019) in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal orders dated 20.09.2018, 19.12.2018 & 08.04.2019 in OA No 673/2018.

(b) & (c) Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes. Government of India has launched the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and urban Transformation (AMRUT) on 25th June, 2015 in 500 cities across the country for a period of five years i.e. from 2015-16 to 2019-20 with focus on development of basic urban infrastructure in the Mission cities. One of the priority sector under AMRUT Mission is water supply. Darjeeling and Siliguri cities of West Bengal are AMRUT cities. West Bengal Government has taken up one project of water supply worth Rs.204.84 crore in Darjeeling, contract for which has been awarded.
