

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3070

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

POLLUTION OF BRAHMAPUTRA TRIBUTARY IN BOKO

3070. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the severe pollution affecting a tributary of the Brahmaputra in Boko, Assam as highlighted in recent reports;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to assess the sources and extent of pollution in the affected water body and its impact on local communities and ecosystems and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken/to be taken by the Government under the Swachh Bharat Mission and other relevant programmes to address water pollution in Assam's rivers and tributaries, particularly in Boko;
- (d) whether any funds have been allocated specifically for cleaning and restoring polluted water bodies in Assam, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken to strengthen the enforcement of environmental regulations to prevent industrial, household and agricultural waste from being dumped into rivers in Assam?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) As informed by Assam Pollution Control Board, no specific information is available on any such report and it has not undertaken any detailed study specifically regarding severe pollution affecting a tributary in Boko of the Brahmaputra, Assam. As per the Central Pollution Control Board report on pollution assessment of rivers in the country, published in November, 2022, the details of polluted river stretches in the State of Assam are as below: -

S. No.	River	Polluted river stretch/location	Max Bod observed(mg/l)	Priority Class
1	Bega	Along Mangaldoi	3.9	V
2	Bharalu	Along Ulubari	76.0	I
3	Burhidihing	Along Margherita	3.6	V
4	Dhansiri	Along Bokajan and Numaligarh	3.5	V
5	Digboi	IOCL Oil Town to Lakhpathar Reserve Forest	5.2	V
6	Kharsang	Along Kharsang	3.3	V
7	Kulsi	Along Chaygaon	3.2	V
8	Mora Bharali	Along Mora Bharali	3.6	V
9	Pagldia	Along Nalbari town	3.4	V
10	Tocklai	Along Kumar Kaibarta Gaon	4.8	V

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) has established a Water Quality Monitoring Network under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). Currently, water quality monitoring is carried out

at 4736 locations in the country including 2155 locations on 645 rivers. In Assam, the water quality is monitored at 239 locations including 112 locations on 73 rivers, out of which the Kulsi river which is a tributary of Brahmaputra River in Boko is monitored by Assam Pollution Control Board at 2 locations viz. River Kulsi at Chaygaon Near NH37 Crossing and Kukurmara.

As informed by CPCB, the water quality data of Kulsi river monitored at these two locations during 2024 indicates that the Kulsi river is complying with the Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing notified by MoEF&CC under Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2000.

(c) It is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure required treatment of domestic wastewater and industrial effluents, before discharging into recipient water bodies or land for prevention and control of pollution therein. For conservation of rivers/tributaries in the country excluding Ganga Basin, this Ministry is supplementing efforts of the States/UTs with the implementation of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) on cost sharing basis.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), to mitigate water pollution caused by untreated drainage discharge into natural water bodies such as rivers, wetlands, and ponds, an End-of-Drainage Treatment System based on the Constructed Wetland approach has been implemented in Boko and other tributaries of Brahmaputra to address the growing concern of water pollution. Further, Boko block is Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus Model with Solid and Liquid Waste Management facilities in all 138 Villages.

(d) The proposal for pollution abatement works in identified towns along polluted river stretches are received from the States/UTs from time to time for consideration under NRCP. Proposals are sanctioned based on their prioritization, conformity with the NRCP guidelines, availability of Plan funds etc. No proposal has been received under NRCP from Government of Assam. However, a proposal of Govt of Assam, namely Rejuvenation and Bioremediation of Silsako Beel Water Body, Guwahati, with an estimated cost of Rs 237 crore has been recently included under PMKSY-HKKP (RRR) for providing central assistance of Rs 213.30 crore in the FY 2025-26.

(e) Cleaning/rejuvenation of rivers is a continuous and dynamic process. Steps taken by the Government to stop discharge of industrial effluents into rivers, inter alia include issuance of notification of specific discharge standards, revision of the criteria for categorization of industries and issuing directions to all SPCBs/PCCs to adopt the same, issuance of consent to establish /consent to operate by the SPCBs/PCCs, regular and surprise inspection of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) for compliance verification against stipulated environmental norms, installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) for assessment of effluent quality and compliance status.

As per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units are required to install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and treat their effluents to comply with stipulated environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies. Accordingly, CPCB, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take punitive action for non-compliance under provisions of these Acts.

Besides, in compliance of the orders of National Green Tribunal in Original Application No.673/2018 regarding polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs are required to implement action plans for restoration of the said stretches in their jurisdiction within the stipulated timelines. The progress in this regard is reviewed by the Central Government with the concerned States/UTs from time to time.
