

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

Pollution caused by Old Factories

136. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether the old factories situated in the middle of cities and towns across the country are causing environmental pollution as well as affecting the health of the local population;
- (b) whether the Government has any scheme to close or displace the said factories in a phased manner;
- (c) whether the Government plans to displace the sugar mills operating in the middle of towns in Uttar Pradesh so as to keep these towns free from environmental pollution; and
- (d) the proposed time limit in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 has directed all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) that 'siting of industries shall be only in conforming areas. SPCBs/PCCs shall evolve sector-specific plans for control of pollution and industrial surveillance for verifying compliance'.

There is no specific scheme of Union of India to close or displace any factories including sugar mills operating in the middle of towns in Uttar Pradesh. Several steps are taken towards prevention and control of pollution caused from various types of industries across the country. Steps towards control of industrial pollution *inter alia* include the follows:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India notifies Industry Specific Discharge Standards under Schedule-I: 'Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from various Industries' of Environment Protection Act, 1986 including Sugar industries. SPCBs and PCCs in States and Union Territories respectively are adhered to ensure the compliance of these standards. So far, industry specific environmental standards, for about 80 industrial sectors, have been notified.

- The SPCBs/PCCs issue consent to establish/ consent to operate and authorization to the industries in the States verifying the permission granted by concerned authority for land conversion for setting up of industry. Also, the SPCBs/PCCs monitor the compliance of industrial emissions/effluent discharges and other operational activities according to the prescribed standards.
- CPCB has revised the criteria for categorization of industries and directed all SPCBs/PCCs in March, 2016, to adopt the same. The categorization is based on pollution potential of the industrial sector and the purpose of the categorization is to ensure that the industry is established in a manner consistent with the environmental objectives and to prompt industrial sectors to adopt cleaner technologies, resulting in generation of no or minimum pollutants. CPCB has categorized 254 industrial sectors into red (61), orange (90), green (65) and white (38) categories.
