

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3274

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001

WATER CONTAMINATION DUE TO INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water of some of the rivers in the country has become unsafe for human consumption due to pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether ground water/water resources in some of the areas in the country particularly areas adjoining Delhi have been contaminated due to industrial pollution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (e) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of water rendered unfit to use due to industrial pollution during the last three years;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T .R.BAALU)

(a) & (b) The water quality of rivers in the country is monitored by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, the results of which indicate that the rivers in selected stretches receiving domestic waste water, show high bacterial pollution and water of these rivers is unsafe for human consumption. A number of stretches of the following rivers have been identified as polluted: Yamuna (Delhi & Agra), Chambal (Madhya Pradesh), Kali (Uttar Pradesh), Hindon (Uttar Pradesh), Khan & Kshipra (Madhya Pradesh), Damodar (Bihar & West Bengal), Gomati (Uttar Pradesh), Cauvery (Karnataka), Kolong (Assam), Bhogdoi (Assam), Barak (Assam), Imphal (Manipur), Howrah (Tripura), Sabarmati (Gujarat), Satluj (Punjab), Godavari & Krishna (Maharashtra & Andhra Pradesh), Bhadra (Karnataka), Brahmani (Orissa), Narmada, Tapi & Betwa (Madhya Pradesh), Beas (Himachal Pradesh) and Adyar & Cooum, Cauvery, Vaigai, Tamarabarani (Tamil Nadu).

(c)&(d) The ground water resources are getting contaminated due to fast industrialization and agricultural activities. Ground water contamination due to heavy metals in industrial areas is reported from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi. Higher concentration of heavy metals is also reported in ground water from Delhi and adjoining areas, namely, Aaiipur, Kanjhawala, Najafgarh, Mehrauli and Shahdara blocks in Delhi, Faridabad in Haryana and Saharanpur and Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh.

(e) to (g) The waste water generated from different categories of industries is estimated as 83,140 million litres per day which includes 73,975 million litres per day from thermal power plants. The industrial effluents, when treated to the prescribed standards can be fully or partially utilized or recycled.

(h) The steps taken by the Government for prevention of pollution of rivers/lakes and ground water include:

(i) Government is implementing National River Conservation Plan for abatement of pollution from domestic sewage in major rivers.

(ii) Directions are issued to the defaulting industrial units discharging waste water to provide requisite pollution control facilities.

(iii) A Central Ground Water Authority has been constituted for control, regulation and management of ground water in the country. The Authority has notified critically polluted areas in the country.

(iv) Industries discharging waste water on land leading to ground water pollution are monitored for compliance of prescribed standards.