

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1498
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
POLLUTION IN THE GANGA RIVER
Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the tanneries located in Kanpur are the worst polluter of Ganga as reported in The Mint, dated 27 September, 2008
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the harmful contents being released by these tanneries into the river:
- (c) the details of big industries, factories, mills and sewages in cities causing pollution in the Ganga river; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop pollution in the said river?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the total wastewater generation in Kanpur is approximately 439 million litres per day (mld), against which a treatment capacity of 171 mld (including 9 mld of waste water generated from tannery units) has been created so far.

UP Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) has identified 404 tannery units in Kanpur, out of which 206 units are based on chrome tanning process and 198 units are based on vegetable tanning process. Of the 206 chrome based tanneries, 169 tanneries have either set up individual chrome recovery plants or are member of the common chrome recovery plant to recover and reuse chromium, which is a heavy metal and hence toxic in nature. The remaining 37 chrome based tanneries are closed due to various reasons. With regard to the vegetable tanning units, 102 tanneries have installed primary Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), 23 tanneries are based on dry process and the remaining 73 tanneries are closed due to various reason. The UPPCB has also reported that the treated effluents from the Primary ETPs of the tanneries and Combined Effluent Treatment Plant are normally discharged into irrigation channels and, thus, not released directly into the river.

(c) & (d) As per estimation done by CPCB in the year 2001, the total sewage pollution load generated by various Class I&II towns located along river Ganga is 2538 mld. Against this, a sewage treatment capacity of 999 mld has been created so far under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I & II. Pollution from industries is being tackled by enforcement of existing environmental laws by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards. The CPCB has reported that out of a total of 146 identified grossly polluting industrial units along the Ganga, 91 units are satisfactorily operating their ETPs, 21 units are not satisfactorily operating their ETPs and the balance 24 units have been closed. The industrial units are monitored by the respective State Pollution Control Boards on regular basis and appropriate action is taken against the defaulting units.