

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2084

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

WATER POLLUTION

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

- (a) whether 70% of surface water resources have serious pollution problems;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) remedial steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b)The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) are monitoring 468 water resources at 1000 locations along 293 Rivers, 94 Lakes, 9 Tanks, 41 Ponds, 8 Creeks and 23 Canals. The observed values at these locations indicate that Biochemical Oxygen demand (BOD), which is an indicator of organic pollution, exceeds the limit in 32 % cases and Faecal Coliform exceeds the Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing in 17 % cases. The deterioration in water quality has been observed to be due to the discharge of partially treated or untreated domestic and industrial wastewater from the cities/ towns and industrial estates located in the catchment of these water resources. The CPCB has also attempted to analyse the decadal data of BOD values and has observed that out of total riverine length of the country (45019 km), 67 % of riverine length is relatively clean, 14 % is severely polluted and 19 % is moderately polluted.

(c) The remedial steps taken to check water pollution include:

- I. Control of industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- II. Implementation of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP).
- III. A mutually agreed time targeted programme implemented under Corporate Responsibility on Environment Protection (CREP).
- IV. Setting-up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for cluster of Small Scale Industries units.
- V. Promotion of low-waste and no-waste technology.
- VI. Collection and treatment of untreated sewage through Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).
- VII. Ensuring compliance of effluent standards in 17 categories of highly polluting industries which are discharging their effluents into rivers.