

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5394
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
POLLUTION BY MNCS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Multi-National Companies (MNCs) are polluting environment and water in the country especially in the State of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into this matter;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : Operation of an industry or a process has a tendency to cause pollution, depending upon its nature and technology used, irrespective of ownership pattern. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories monitor the compliance of effluent and emission standards in industries, particularly in the case of 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

As per information made available by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), legal action and steps for closure of polluting industries are taken against persistent defaulters. For example, in case of a factory of M/s. Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., a MNC, directions for closure were issued by the KSPCB. The High Court of Kerala ruled that the said industry can start functioning without the consent of the Board against which KSPCB has filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court of India.

The Central Government has made it mandatory for the identified categories of industrial and infrastructural projects, whether promoted by a MNC or not, to obtain prior 'environmental clearance' as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.