

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1824
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
POLLUTION DUE TO DISTILLERIES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the distilleries are one of the major source of pollution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on human beings; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to address the problem?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The distillery sector is one of the seventeen categories of major polluting industries in India. These units generate large volume of dark brown coloured wastewater, which is known as "spent wash". Spent wash contains high organic pollutants such as Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) - 85000 to 95,000 mg/l, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) - 45,000 to 60,000 mg/l and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) - 80,000 to 1, 20,000 mg/l.

Thus, the distillery wastewater causes serious pollution problems in the recipient water bodies when discharged, resulting in depletion of dissolved oxygen in water and adverse affect on aquatic life, fish, phytoplankton etc. Also, it pollutes groundwater and drinking water when discharged on land. Application of distillery wastewater for irrigation of crops causes soil pollution i.e. salinity.

(c) The Government has notified environmental standards for the distillery sector under the Environment (Protection) act, 1986. The Government is also encouraging the distilleries to achieve zero discharge of effluent. In addition, surprise inspection of industries is carried out by the Central and the State Pollution Control Boards for verification of compliance by industries to the prescribed pollution control norms.