

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011
CWC'S REPORT ON WATER QUALITY
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Water Commission (CWC) has recently released a report on the quality of water in the rivers of India;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the quality of water in rivers is deteriorating especially in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to improve the quality of water in rivers across the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.319 DUE FOR REPLY IN LOK SABHA ON 15.12.2011 REGARDING CWC'S REPORT ON WATER QUALITY.

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission (CWC)'s Report entitled "Water Quality 'Hot-spots' in Rivers of India" was released in October, 2011. The salient features of the Report are at Annexure-I.

(c) CWC has reported that the quality of water in various stretches of the rivers in the country has deteriorated. In Tamil Nadu, some parameters have been observed in various river waters in excess of Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) prescribed limits at some monitoring stations of CWC as given in Annexure-II.

The Central Pollution Control Board under Ministry of Environment and Forests is also monitoring water quality of rivers. Water quality monitoring is being carried out with respect to 481 rivers by them.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is monitoring the river water quality of major rivers like Cauvery and its tributaries, Vaigai, Tamirabarani and Palar under the programmes namely Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources (MINARS) and Global environmental Monitoring System (GEMS). The overall analysis report reveals that fecal contamination of the rivers is a common phenomenon due to unhygienic practices and discharge of either partially treated or treated municipal sewage into the river system.

(d) The conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. MoEF is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for abatement of pollution in rivers through the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Major steps taken by MoEF to improve the quality of water in rivers across the country include :

- i. Action against polluting industries for not complying with the standards by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB).
- ii. Formulation and implementation of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Under NRCP various schemes which include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood cremation and river front development are being implemented on cost sharing basis between Central and State Governments.

Details of steps proposed to be taken by MoEF to improve the quality of waters in rivers across the country are at Annexure-III.