

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4841

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012

WATER CESS

Chaudhary Shri Jayant

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

- (a) the total cess collected under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 during the last three years, and the current year. State-wise alongwith the number of industries registered under the Act;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the rate and quantum of water cess under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the criteria and norms for the utilisation of cess collected;
- (e) whether some industries are not paying the Water Cess; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) The total cess collected under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 during the last three years and during the current year i.e. 2012-13 is given in the annexure. All industries except Hydel Power Units consuming water and generating pollution are covered under this Act. The industries consuming water less than 10 Kilo Litres per Day (KLD) have also been exempted from the levy of water cess, however, provided that no such exemption is applicable in case of industries generating hazardous wastes defined in the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008.

(b) & (c) At present there is no proposal of the Government to revise the water cess rates prescribed under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977.

(d) Presently the State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs / PCCs) are allowed to utilize 50% of the total amount of water cess reimbursed to them on their establishment and office operations. 25% of the total amount of water cess reimbursed is earmarked for i) establishment costs related to scientific and technical manpower, including augmentation thereof; and ii) e-governance and IT applications in the SPCBs/PCCs including online consent management. 25% of the cess funds available for project activities are earmarked for monitoring of air, water and noise and creation of related infrastructure. A minimum of 3% of the total cess funds are utilized for the purpose of e-governance and IT applications.

(e) & (f) Since the Hydel Power Units and the industries consuming water less than 10 KLD are exempted from levy of water cess, hence such industries / units are not paying water cess.