

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4907  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012  
POLLUTION OF RURAL WATER SOURCES  
Ananth Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding pollution of sustainable rural water sources by Urban Local Bodies and Industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to reduce pollution of sustainable rural water sources?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The rural areas are mostly having water sources in the form of ponds, tanks, canal and rivers flowing across the rural belt. The inhabitants in these areas use these water bodies for potable purposes and for fulfilling their local needs including agricultural purposes. To maintain pristine water quality of aquatic resources, the Central Pollution Control Board has established a network of 2000 monitoring stations covering 383 rivers, 127 lakes, 9 tanks, 59 ponds, 40 creeks/sea water, 17 canals, 34 drains and 595 wells. There is no specific monitoring network established on assessing water quality of water bodies located in rural areas.

(c) The steps taken to reduce pollution of sustainable rural water sources include the establishment of a comprehensive National Ganga River Basin Authority for holistic water basin management and the implementation of schemes like National River Conservation Plan, National Lake Conservation Plan and the scheme for the establishment of Effluent Treatment Plants. Moreover, the Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation have also implemented various schemes for maintaining the potability of drinking water in urban areas and rural areas respectively.