

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6119
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
RIVER POLLUTION BY HEAVY METALS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some metals are found in river water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check and regulate the discharge of heavy metals like lead and chromium in river water?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards, is monitoring water quality of rivers at 1085 locations along various river stretches, in terms of physico-chemical and bacterial parameters. Heavy metals are analysed at specific locations to assess the impact of anthropogenic and geogenic activities in aquatic resources. The observed values with respect to certain heavy metals like lead, chromium, arsenic, cadmium and iron are reported to be exceeding the prescribed standards at some of the monitoring locations on the rivers.

(d) For conservation of rivers, this Ministry is implementing the scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this regard. The Plan is implemented on a cost sharing ratio of 70:30 between the Centre and States (90:10 for North-eastern States). Presently, NRCP covers 40 rivers in 190 towns (spread over 20 states) along polluted stretches, as identified by CPCB.

For control of industrial pollution, a major contributor of heavy metals, the steps taken inter-alia include legal action for non-complying units under the provisions of the Water Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, promotion of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for cluster of small scale industries, Environmental Auditing etc.