

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:221

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

RIVER POLLUTION

Choudhary Shri Bhudeo; Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

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

- (a) whether the pollution level of various rivers of the country including Ganga, Yamuna, Krishna, Kaveri and Godavari has increased due to discharging of effluents from industries situated on the bank of these rivers;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to combat the situation;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome of measures taken by the Pollution Control Boards of the riparian States; and
- (d) the amount spent to check pollution in the rivers during the last three years, State-wise and river-wise along with the marked places where the waste material of the factories is discharged into the rivers?

**Answer**

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

(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. 221 to be answered on Monday, the 27th August, 2012 on 'River Pollution' raised by Shri Rao Saheb Danve Patil and Shri Bhudeo Choudhary:

(a) The pollution load in rivers is increasing due to discharge of partially treated and untreated industrial and municipal waste. The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring water quality of various river stretches in the country including Ganga, Yamuna, Krishna, Kaveri and Godavari River. Based on the monitoring, 150 polluted stretches have been identified along various rivers in the country, the details of which are enclosed at annexure-I.

(b) The Ministry has initiated several measures for abatement of pollution of rivers including financial assistance for sewerage schemes under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) covering works such as interception & diversion of sewage, construction of Sewage Treatment Plants, and construction of Low Cost Sanitation Schemes (LCS) and installation of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants in industrial clusters. In addition, 17 categories of highly polluting industries are regularly monitored through the Central Pollution Control Boards (CPCB) as well as State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/ PCCs) for ensuring compliance with the effluents discharge standards etc.

(c) Based on the independent monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions, the water quality in terms of BOD values (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) for major rivers is reported to have improved as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works. However, the levels of bacterial contamination in terms of fecal coliform are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at various monitoring locations. Further, the CPCB and SPCBs monitor industries for compliance with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) The details of funds released by the Ministry under NRCP during the last three years, State-wise and river wise including Ganga, Yamuna, Krishna, Kaveri and Godavari are at Annexure-II.