

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3138  
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012  
POLLUTION OF GROUNDWATER  
Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether more than half of the industrial clusters in the country suffer from critical levels of industrial pollution termed as the 'red' category;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to save water resources from industrial pollution;
- (c) if so, the details of the studies conducted for the aforesaid purpose; and
- (d) the measures undertaken to reduce industrial pollution in groundwater during the last three years and the current year?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS ( SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) No Sir. As per information received from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), comprehensive environmental assessment of 88 prominent industrial clusters carried out by CPCB in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in 2009 has indicated that 43 industrial clusters in 16 States are Critically Polluted Industrial Clusters.

(b) Though, as per the above study 43 out of 88 industrial clusters are identified as critically polluted industrial clusters which is not more than half. Government has proposals to save water resources from industrial pollution.

(c) CPCB has set up Environmental Surveillance Programme with the purpose of carrying out surprise inspections of industrial units based on adoption of a uniform approach and elimination of subjectivity in scheduling of inspection and their follow up actions through its six zonal offices. The areas under each of its zonal offices have been divided into different regions. A region-wise data base of 17 Categories of polluting industries have been prepared. These surprise inspections are being carried out to assess the adequacy of pollution control systems adopted by these industries and check the compliance status of pollution control standards.

(d) To reduce environmental pollution including ground water pollution caused by industries, following measures have been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):

# MoEF has imposed temporary moratorium on consideration of new projects/ expansion of existing projects for environmental clearance to be located in Critically Polluted Areas vide Office Memorandum dated 13.01.2010.

# As per direction of MoEF, remedial Action Plans for the identified 43 critically polluted areas have been prepared by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) based on the Terms of Reference and Model frame of Action Plan prepared by CPCB. For strict implementation of Action Plans prepared by respective State Pollution Control Boards, the CPCB has requested SPCBs to constitute local committees for field visit/ review and verification of implementation of Action Plans and to submit progress on bi-monthly basis to CPCB. CPCB also carries out independent assessment of the progress made towards implementation of Action Plans.

# CPCB had engaged Third Party agencies for monitoring of Air, Water and Ground Water Quality of all the 43 Critically Polluted Areas during February – March, 2011. The monitoring results have been uploaded on the website of CPCB ([www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in)). Another round of monitoring is proposed to be carried out in November, 2012 – February, 2013.

# Industries found non complying with the stipulated norms are issued usual direction under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for taking corrective action and in case of gross violations, closure directions are also issued. CPCB has issued 195 such directions during last three years.

# Directions are issued by CPCB to SPCBs/ PCCs under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 to ensure compliance of environmental standards by way of exercising powers vested under Section 33 A of Water Act, 1974 and 31 A of Air Act, 1981. During last three years, 118 directions have been issued by CPCB.