

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3445
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
POLLUTION OF CAUVERY
Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) whether the pollution in Cauvery river is posing threat to the fertility of soil in delta region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to clean Cauvery river;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The soil fertility is generally affected due to problems such as salinity, toxicity, ill drained conditions, low lying areas and deficiency of nutrients etc. The soils in delta region of Tamil Nadu have high clay content, low draining capacity, poor nitrogen and phosphorus which may affect the soil fertility and agricultural production.

(c) to (e) This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement in various rivers through the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Under the NRCP, funds have been provided to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for installation of sewerage schemes for collection and treatment of sewage to prevent pollution of river Cauvery. Under this scheme, in Tamil Nadu 9 towns are covered and projects amounting to Rs. 263.76 crore have been sanctioned. Similarly, in Karnataka, 4 towns have been selected and funds of Rs. 5.34 crore have been sanctioned.

For control of industrial pollution, the effluent discharge standards have been notified, which are monitored by State Pollution Control Boards for compliance. The action is initiated against industries in case of non compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.