

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013

CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER BY TANNERIES

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether polluted water of tanneries, set up by leather traders in Kanpur and Unnao districts of Uttar Pradesh, is released into ground water;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the ill-effects of mixing of polluted/contaminated water with ground water on the use of ground water as drinking water; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the said study and the action the Government proposes to take in the direction of implementing the conclusions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board has informed that tanneries located in Kanpur and Unnao are either having their own Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) or are member of Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and discharge their treated effluents into conveyance channel or drain.

(b) & (c) Central Ground Water Board has carried out studies on effect of industrial (including tanneries) effluents in Kanpur-Unnao area. The heavy element analysis reveals instances of high chromium which can be attributed to pollution from use of chrome dye in textile and tannery industries. The findings of the Pollution Studies are given in the Annexure. Besides, the Committee constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources under Director, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee to investigate the extent of pollution in water bodies/ground water in Unnao, has submitted a Report. The recommendations / findings of the Committee include non-conformity of effluent standards as notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for effluent discharged by both the Common Effluent Treatment Plants at Unnao CETP and Banthar CETP, insufficient provision for proper collection and disposal of sewage as well as industrial effluents, need to stop the practice of indiscriminate dumping of chromium laden solid waste, use of processed wastes from tanneries by bio-fertilizer industries as raw materials which are potential hazards for air, soil and water environment, untreated sewage and industrial effluents flowing in open drains causing ground water quality deterioration, need to develop proper system of collection, transportation and disposal of domestic waste, deterioration in ground water quality due to indiscriminate solid waste dumping along National Highway and localized effects of Chromium contamination in shallow aquifers.