

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4492

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013

RIVER POLLUTION DUE TO FACTORIES AND SUGAR INDUSTRIES

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints against sugar mills and other operational factories which are spreading pollution in rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the action taken on such complaints;
- (c) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to keep the pollution level of such rivers within the prescribed norms/criteria;
- (d) the criteria/norms of standard level of water pollution for major rivers of the country set by the Government;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any study to check the water pollution vis-a-vis standard level of pollution of such rivers during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise including Odisha and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 15 complaints were received regarding pollution of rivers due to discharge of effluents from sugar factories in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Action has been taken in cases of defaulting units under the Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act 1974 and under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for abatement of pollution in rivers under the National River Conservation Plan, through implementation of various pollution abatement schemes which include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. The standards for discharge of effluents for various industries are also notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) The desirable river water quality standards for bathing class are as under-

Parameter	Criteria/standards
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pH	6.5-8.5
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Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	5 mg/l or more
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Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	3 mg/l or less
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Fecal Coliform	500 MPN/100 ml (desirable)2500 MPN/100 ml (Maximum permissible)
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(e) & (f) CPCB is monitoring water quality of rivers and based on BOD levels, 150 polluted river stretches on 121 rivers in the country have been identified. These include 4 stretches on rivers Kathjodi, Brahmani, Mahanadi and Kuakhai in the State of Odisha.