

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:924  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013  
POLLUTION IN INDIRA GANDHI CANAL  
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the polluted water being drained into Indira Gandhi Canal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the pollution in flowing water of the canal?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Indira Gandhi Canal originates from Harike Barrage at Sultanpur, a few kilometers downstream of confluence of rivers Satluj and Beas in the State of Punjab. The effluents from domestic sources and industries are being discharged at the upstream of Indira Gandhi Canal into rivers Satluj and Beas.

(c) The Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement of various rivers in the country, including Punjab, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Under the NRCP, for conservation and pollution abatement of rivers Satluj and Beas, schemes pertaining to interception & diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, crematoria, afforestation, public participation and awareness, etc. are being implemented in 14 towns in Punjab viz. Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Phillaur, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Banga, Bholath, Dasuya, Moga, Mukerian, Nawanshahar, Sultanpur Lodhi and Tanda at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 717.32 crore. Sewage treatment capacity of 461.2 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under the NRCP in Punjab. In addition, sewerage infrastructure is also being created in Ludhiana and Jalandhar under other Central sector schemes like JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission) and UIDSSMT (Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns) of Ministry of Urban Development.

As per information provided by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), a Common Effluent Treatment Plant, based on zero liquid discharge, has been set-up in Ludhiana for treatment of effluents from electroplating units and large dyeing units in the town have installed individual effluent treatment plants in their premises.

The PPCB is periodically monitoring the water quality flowing into Indira Gandhi Canal through Harike Head Works. The analysis of the water quality done by the PPCB indicates that the quality of water is either of 'B' or 'C' class as per the designated best use classification, which is suitable for drinking purposes after conventional treatment followed by disinfection.