

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3147

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION OF RIVERS AND WATER BODIES

Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has recently revealed that most of the rivers and water bodies in the country contain an alarming level of bacterial contamination;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the CPCB has since proposed any steps to check the filth of rivers and to prevent them from bacterial contamination; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Bacterial contamination is measured in terms of counts of Coliform group of bacteria of fecal origin. The maximum permissible limit and the desirable limit for fecal coliform count for bathing quality water have been notified as 2500 Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 millilitre (ml) & 500 MPN/100 ml respectively.

As per Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) water quality monitoring of rivers during the year 2008, fecal coliform count is reported to be less than 500 MPN/ 100 ml in 67.3% of water samples, between 500 & 2500 MPN/100 ml in 16.8% samples and more than 2500 MPN/100 ml in 15.9% samples.

(c) & (d) Based on CPCB's identification of polluted stretches along the rivers, Action Plans for conservation of rivers are formulated and implemented under the National River Conservation Plan. The Plan presently covers identified polluted stretches on 38 rivers in 167 towns spread over 20 States.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities, including creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development for Small and Medium Towns under the Ministry of Urban Development, as well as under State schemes.