

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3127
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
POLLUTED STRETCHES
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has identified many polluted stretches of water in many rivers in the country which is not fit for drinking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, river-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken/ proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a & b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoE&F) monitors the water quality of the rivers at 1275 stations located on 445 rivers. It has identified 150 polluted stretches on 121 rivers in the country based on BOD (Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand) levels. The State wise lists of rivers are at Annexure-I and the details of the polluted river stretches are at Annexure-II.

Central Water Commission (CWC) under Ministry of Water Resources also monitors the water quality at 396 stations located in all the major river basins of India. It has published the report 'Water Quality Hot Spots in Rivers of India' in 2011. The study reveals that water at 75 locations of major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Sone and Wainganga are not fit for drinking purposes. The details are at Annexure-III.

c) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. MoE&F is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) including National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) programme, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. NRCP presently covers 42 rivers in 195 towns spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs.8904 crore. Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under the plan, inter-alia, 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. Till date, sewage treatment capacity of 4788 million liters per day has been created under the plan.

In addition, State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocations, are accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including setting up of sewage treatment plants in various towns under other Central Sector Schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) of Ministry of Urban Development etc.

For the industrial effluent, CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards have taken following steps to prevent and control pollution:

- (i) The provisions of Water Act 1974 are implemented by consent management to regulate discharge of effluents and enforcement of standards in respect of polluting sources.
- (ii) Control of industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- (iii) A mutually agreed time targeted programme is implemented under Corporate Responsibility on Environment Protection (CREP) with a bank guarantee on various commitments
- (iv) Special drives are taken against the major 17 categories of polluting industries.
- (v) Directions are issued to industries discharging their waste water into rivers and lakes.
- (vi) 41 problem areas are identified as per Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).
- (vii) Environmental auditing is being taken up.
- (viii) Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of small scale industrial units are promoted.

(ix) Promotion of low-waste and no-waste technology.

(X) Diversion and development of treatment facilities.

(iv)

(v)