

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1308

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

ACTION AGAINST POLLUTING INDUSTRIES

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

- (a) whether a large number of industrial units, factories and paper mills in the country are causing pollution of air, water and environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard during each of the last two years and the current year and the action taken thereon, unit/mill and State-wise;
- (d) whether the National Green Tribunal has issued directions to the States to shut down factories polluting the rivers and if so, the response of the States thereon; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to monitor the level of pollution by industrial units/paper mills and discharge of effluents into rivers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 17 categories of Highly Polluting Industries (HPIs) including Pulp & Paper sector. Out of 3261 HPIs, 2335 are in compliance and 573 are non-compliant. Remaining 353 industries have been closed. The compliance status of highly polluting industries in the country is given in Annexure-I.

(c) The CPCB receives number of public complaints against the polluting industrial units including paper mills. The status of action taken on these complaints is given at Annexure-II.

(d) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in matter Ganga pollution has directed the State Pollution Control Boards particularly in Uttar Pradesh for inspection to verify the status of compliance and report to the NGT. The NGT has further constituted committees at Centre and State level for reporting the action taken/ compliance status of industries to the Tribunal. The States are providing the compliance status of industries to NGT through these Committees.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to monitor the level of pollution by industrial units/ paper mills and discharge of effluents into river are as under;

CPCB has setup a mechanism called Environmental Surveillance programme (ESS) with a purpose for carrying out surprise inspections of industrial units based on adoption of a uniform approach and elimination of subjectivity in scheduling of inspection and their follow-up actions through six zonal offices of CPCB;

The above surprise inspections are being carried out to assess the adequacy of pollution control systems adopted by these industries and check the compliance status of pollution control standards;

CPCB has issued Directions to the defaulting industries under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and to the State Pollution Control Boards under Sec 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention And Control of Pollution) Act, 1981/ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.