

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2157  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015  
POLLUTION IN GROUND WATER  
Nagar Shri Rodmal

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding pollution in ground water and rivers on account of industries;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the steps being taken in this regard; and
- (d) the efforts being made by the Government for abatement of ground water and river pollution in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Various pollution abatement schemes taken-up under the programmes, inter-alia include interception and diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP), low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. From 01/08/2014, the works relating to Ganga & its tributaries, including NGRBA programme has been transferred to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. NRCP and NGRBA programmes cover polluted stretches of 42 rivers (including Ganga and its tributaries) in 199 towns spread over 21 States. Sewage treatment capacity of 5054 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under NRCP and NGRBA programmes including STP capacity created for Ganga and its tributaries.

In case of ground water, localized occurrence of contamination having various constituents in excess of the limits prescribed for drinking water use has been observed in almost all the States. The commonly observed contaminants such as Arsenic, Fluoride and Iron are geogenic in nature whereas contaminants such as Nitrates, Phosphates, Heavy Metals etc. owe their origin to various human activities including domestic sewage, agricultural practices and industrial effluents.

(d) The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to restore water quality. The following steps are taken to prevent and control pollution:

Control of Industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974;  
Special Drives for 17 categories of industries;  
Environmental auditing;  
Common effluent treatment plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;  
Promotion of low-waste and no-waste technology;  
Urban centres discharging wastewater in aquatic resources and having no treatment facilities have been identified and recommended for appropriate action to respective authorities;  
Identified urban centres are being considered under various River Action Plans for interception, diversion and development of treatment facilities;  
The rain water harvesting practices implemented in various regions of the country has augmented the depleted water table and consequently improved quality of sub surface water.  
Guidelines have been prepared on idol immersion in rivers and lakes. Local authorities and SPCBs make efforts to reduce pollution load on water bodies through awareness programmes and by implementation of guidelines.  
The State Governments have been requested to augment the sewage treatment capacity and to achieve the 100% treatment of the wastewater generated from urban areas.  
Zero Liquid Discharge has been implemented in a number of categories of industries to protect the water quality.