

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5023

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015

WATER POLLUTION

Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of reports by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and World Health Organisation (WHO) indicating high water pollution levels in cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken/proposes to undertake programmes/schemes to improve water quality in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue, including creating of warning mechanisms?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 150 polluted rivers stretches in the year 2008. A comprehensive study has been conducted through SPCBs for 29 of these river stretches for assessment of polluting sources and estimation of pollution load reaching the river (Annexure I & II).

WHO has informed that in the recent past, it has not published any report indicating high level of water pollution in Indian cities.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoE,F&CC) has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution of various rivers and lakes/wetlands under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA) respectively. NRCP has covered polluted stretches of 40 rivers in 121 towns spread over 19 States at an expenditure of Rs.4876.40 crore. Sewage treatment capacity of 3833.49 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far. In addition, MoE,F&CC has released Rs 605.05 crore for conservation of 63 lakes and Rs.138.53 crore for conservation of 80 wetlands.

CPCB has made a comprehensive programme on water pollution for controlling point sources by developing industry specific standards and general standards for sewage which have been notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which are to be enforced by the SPCBs/PCCs. Various steps including Environmental Auditing, promotion of Common Effluent Treatment Plants, promotion of Low Waste and No Waste technology, augmenting flow in rivers, Rain Water Harvesting practices, implementation of guidelines prepared for idol immersion in rivers and lakes, promotion of Zero Liquid Discharge and sewage treatment infrastructure in the housing projects etc. are being taken for the abatement of pollution. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) proposes to tap the drains and treat the waste water to improve the quality of water in river Ganga.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors ground water quality of shallow aquifers once every year during pre-monsoon (April/May). The data generated are shared with concerned State Government departments for taking necessary remedial actions. CGWB also provides technical guidance to State agencies in tackling the problem of water quality.

The real time monitoring system has been established on river Ganga (8 nos.), Yamuna (3 nos.), Gomti (1 no.) and Ramganga (1 no.) by MoE,F&CC and MoWR, RD & GR and the same is proposed to be extended to the polluted rivers and industrial units in the country in a phased manner for creating a warning mechanism. 113 locations have been identified on the main stem of Ganga for the purpose.