

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3315
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015
WATER TREATMENT PLANTS
Bhagat Shri Bodh Singh

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

- (a) whether there are any water treatment plants for treating wastewater of mining industries in the country and if so, the location-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any arrangement for treating wastewater discharged by the Hindustan Copper Limited plant in Malanjkhand in Balaghat district;
- (c) if not, the time by which any arrangement is likely to be made in this regard;
- (d) whether the wastewater discharged by such undertakings is having a bad impact on the health of the villagers living in the surrounding villages; and
- (e) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Most of the major mining units have waste water treatment plants, which generally consist of chemical dozing, settling tank, etc. Presently, environmental standards are prescribed only for iron ore mining and coal mining.

(b) to (e) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board, an Open Pit Copper Mine Project of Hindustan Copper Limited at Malanjkhand, Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh is operating for the last 35 years (1978 onwards). There is no generation of any waste water in mining operations. It is only seepage and rain water during monsoon which gets accumulated in the lower most levels of the open pit mine. There is a facility to dewater the mine and utilize water in processing of ore in Concentrator Plant. The waste water is not allowed to flow outside the mining premises.

The waste / trailing (35% solid + 65% water) generated after processing of copper ore in Concentrator Plant is pumped to Trailing Pond and is stored at Dam area. The entire Trailing Pond has been constructed phase wise during last 32 years. There is no discharge of solid waste outside the pond. The water is pushed inside the basin to low lying areas inside the pond by cycloning method. The water accumulated in this area is recycled back through the trolly mounted pumping station to the Concentrator Plant.

At Malanjkhand Copper Project, the entire mine water including the mine dewatering is used for processing of Ore at Concentrator Plant. There is "Zero Discharge" as far as mining/beneficiation operation is concerned, due to which there no impact on the health of the villagers living in the surrounding villages.