

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3360

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

WATER POLLUTION

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

- (a) whether water pollution has increased in the country during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof along with the factors/ industries responsible in this regard;
- (b) whether some States have shown a higher incidence of increase in water pollution and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding non-implementation/ improper implementation of schemes/measures for control of water pollution and if so, the details and action taken thereon;
- (d) the funds sanctioned/released and utilised for abatement of water pollution during the said period, scheme and State-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has any monitoring mechanism to keep a check on the increasing water pollution and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the water quality monitoring indicates that the rivers are polluted in downstream of major urban and industrial centers due to large scale water abstraction and discharge of untreated/ partially treated wastewater not meeting the criteria. The pollution in rivers is increasing due to rapid increase in population and resultant wastewater generation. The development of wastewater treatment facility is not commensurate with the increasing wastewater generation in urban centers, lean flow in rivers for a large part of the year after a short span of monsoon period. The CPCB has identified 302 highly polluted river stretches on 275 rivers for priority action for controlling pollution in these rivers. The major industries responsible for pollution in these rivers are Distilleries, Pulp and paper, Sugar, Tanneries, Pharmaceuticals etc.

One of the major sources of water pollution is discharge of untreated / partially treated sewage. The CPCB carried out survey on status of sewage generation in the country and the treatment capacity available. The municipal wastewater generated has increased from the level of 38,254 Million Litres per Day (MLD) during 2008 to about 57,000 MLD in 2015. The sewage treatment capacity has not augmented and a wide gap of more than 37,000 MLD is existing which is the prime cause of increase of water pollution.

The Central 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;

Scheme of Common effluent treatment plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;

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 depletion of flow in the rivers is one of the major factor for water quality degradation. Steps are being taken to augment flow in rivers for ecological consideration and the respective ministries concerned such as Water Resources and Power are being persuaded to provide adequate flow in the rivers so that rivers can attain its ecological balance including desired water quality for various beneficial uses;

The rain water harvesting practices implemented in various regions of the country have augmented the depleted water table and consequently improved quality of sub surface water;

(d)&(e) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is implementing a number of schemes including abatement of industrial as well as environmental pollution for control and prevention of water pollution under which financial assistance is provided to the State implementing agencies. These schemes are on-going in nature and include the following Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes:

- i. National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)
- ii. National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)
- iii. National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA)
- iv. Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)

The major works under the aforesaid schemes inter alia include river front development, setting up of sewage treatment plants, waste water quality assessment, restoration of aquatic ecosystems and setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants.

The funds released under the schemes of NRCP/NGRBA, NPCA and CETP are given at Annexure-I, II & III respectively.

Funds for implementation of pollution abatement schemes are released in a periodic manner to the concerned States based on progress of works and on receipt of utilization certificates as well as physical and financial progress reports from the States. These reports are examined and unspent balances are taken into account before releasing the next instalment of funds. There is a three tier mechanism for monitoring of schemes, at the level of (i) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, (ii) Central Pollution Control Board and (iii) State Pollution Control Boards. Monitoring process, inter alia, include mandatory audit of accounts of grantee organization, submission of audited utilization certificates, expenditure statement and a progress report on the activities conducted by the grantee organization.