

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4420

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

FLOW OF RIVERS

Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

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

(a) whether despite a number of prevailing Acts intended to protect India's waterways, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards have not ensured their effective implementation and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether a more ecological sound approach towards environmental protection of flows of rivers is necessary;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether accountability norms for official agencies are necessary for the restoration of many rivers that are dying due to pollution and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The main function of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution. However, flow in rivers is not dealt by CPCB. With respect to industrial pollution, CPCB in association with the State Pollution Control Boards made a comprehensive program to ensure compliance of the effluent discharge norms and action against the defaulting industries under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Section 33A of the Water Act, 1974.

(c) 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;

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.

(d) The water quality monitoring data obtained over the years are analysed statistically and compared with the water quality criteria. The stretches of rivers not meeting with the criteria are identified as polluted stretches and categorized in five priority areas A to E as given at Annexure.