

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2288

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016

Pollutants in River Systems

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

- (a) whether surface water forms a major drinking water source for human and other organisms;
- (b) if so, whether there is no active system for monitoring the water quality in the riverine systems;
- (c) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether scientists from multiple institutes have conducted human health risk assessment caused by dissolved trace elements in river systems;
- (e) if so, the results thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to make all the rivers in the country free from all kinds of pollutants?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRIANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) Surface water along with ground water forms a major drinking water source for human and other organisms.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) is monitoring the river water quality across the country through a network of 1275 monitoring stations on various rivers under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWQMP). As per the report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in February 2015, 302 polluted river stretches have been identified on 275 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution

(d) and (e) CPCB has informed that they have not conducted any study on human health risk assessment due to dissolved trace elements in the identified polluted river stretches.

(f) The Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the programmes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) for implementation of projects on cost sharing basis between Central and State Governments. The NGRBA programme along with work of Ganga & its tributaries has been transferred to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR,RD&GR) from 01/08/2014 onwards. NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries) has covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers in 75 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4517.82 crore. So far, an amount of Rs. 2056.58 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement works and sewage treatment capacity of 2373 million litres per day (mld) has been created under the NRCP programme (excluding Ganga & its tributaries).

State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocation, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including sewage treatment plants, in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme of Ministry of Urban Development and the Namami Gange programme (under NGRBA) of MoWR,RD&GR.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to the State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committees regarding setting up of sewage treatment plants and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to 69 municipal authorities of metropolitan cities and state capitals under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated in their jurisdiction.

To control discharge of industrial effluents, CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. To improve the monitoring of compliance, directions have been issued to specific industries to install online 24x7 effluent and emission monitoring devices.
