

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1310
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

Contamination of water table

1310. SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO:

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

- (a) whether indiscriminate use of poor quality fugitive pigments by the majority of the production units in the country are posing a major threat of contamination of water table in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise, particularly Andhra Pradesh and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some States and civic bodies in the country with the support of the revenue and police has banned washing of the fabric, on which the pigments mixed with kerosene are applied, in some canals in Andhra Pradesh also, if so, the details thereof
- (d) whether it is also a fact that finding no alternative sources, the units are releasing the waste water into the local open storm water drains in the towns, leaving the water table contaminated with toxic effluents, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether some pollution boards have warned that the water in which fabric with pigments is washed is not advisable to purify for drinking water purpose, if so, the details thereof and violations noticed/action taken thereon; and
- (f) whether using chemical pigments instead of natural colours extracted from listed plants and herbs is a blatant violation of the GI guidelines, if so, the details thereof and violations noticed/action taken thereon?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) to (f) Indiscriminate use of poor quality fugitive pigments can lead to contamination of water table. There are about 42 Kalamkari fabric printing units existing in Pedana village of Krishna District. The cloth is subjected to cowdung treatment and natural washing of dried bleached cloth with water, myrobalan treatment, printing, washing of printed cloths, applying of starch ash application, further color printing, and final washing with soap. Washing is done in irrigation canals. Washing of fabric in canals is not banned by Revenue Department. These units do not come under purview of Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (APPCB) and it has written to the Revenue Department not to allow Kalamkari units to discharge wash water in to drinking sources.

Textile dyeing has been categorized as Red category and is required to obtain Consent to Operate from concerned State Pollution Control Board/ Pollution Control Committee. Effluent standards for textile sectors have been notified under the provision of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which inter-alia has prescribed standards for Chromium, Phenolic

Compounds, Colour, etc. Exposure to these chemicals above prescribed limits could affect human health. In case of direct disposal into rivers and lakes, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) or State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs / PCCs) may specify more stringent standards.
