

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2840
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2018

Pollution in Damodar River

2840. SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether Damodar river in West Bengal has become highly polluted and is considered a threat to the health of the people living along its banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a need to do desilting and dredging of Damodar river and removing the effluents from Damodar Barrage area;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the stringent mechanism in place to see that all rivers are maintained clean and not become the dumping ground for effluents from industries located nearby these rivers?

ANSWER

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

(a)to (d) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with the State Pollution Control Boards monitor the water quality of rivers across the country through a network of monitoring stations, including 11 monitoring stations on Damodar river in West Bengal, under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme.

As per the report published by CPCB in September 2018, 351 polluted river stretches have been identified on 323 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), a key indicator of organic pollution. As per this report, the stretch of river Damodar from Durgachakm to Dishergarh in West Bengal has been identified as polluted. However, CPCB has not conducted any specific assessment with regards to the need for desilting and dredging of Damodar river and removing the effluents from Damodar Barrage area.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of rivers, *inter alia*, include formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries, enforcing of the discharge standards by State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees through consent mechanism and regular monitoring, setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality, installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring systems (OCEMS) to check the discharge of effluents into rivers and water bodies, promotion of cleaner production processes in industries, installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for cluster of small scale industrial units, issuance of directions for implementation

of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in certain categories of highly polluting industries, issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to the States for setting up of sewage treatment plants and industrial pollution control for abatement of pollution of rivers, etc.
