

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1493
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

Effect of pollution on rivers and natural resources of Meghalaya

1493. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rivers and natural resources of Meghalaya are vanishing due to pollution;
- (b) whether any authentic data is available on the effect of pollution on natural resources and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether both the National Green Tribunal and Pollution Control Board are unsuccessful in controlling it;
- (d) whether the local public of Meghalaya is facing health problems, such as stomach ailments, cancer etc., during the last three years as per Government reports;
- (e) if so, the number of people who suffered from such diseases; and
- (f) the action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (f): Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Meghalaya Pollution State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) are monitoring the water quality of 19 rivers at 40 monitoring locations in Meghalaya which indicate that Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) is exceeding the Water Quality Criteria limit at 13 locations. There is no established correlation between vanishing of rivers and pollution. The Hon'ble National Green tribunal in the matter of Original Application No 73 of 2014 titled All Dimasa Students Union Dima Hasao District Committee – Vs. State of Meghalaya & Ors vide order dated 17th April 2014 banned rat-hole mining in the state of Meghalaya.

MSPCB is regulating all polluting industries through consent mechanism under the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution)Act, 1981 and carries out monitoring of the industries to ensure compliance of prescribed effluent and emission standards. According to MSPCB there are no records available linking stomach ailments or cancer directly with river pollution.
