

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 200
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

Contaminated water in Rajasthan channels at Harike

200. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) Whether untreated sewage and industrial effluents are being discharged in Sutlej River and its tributaries;
- (b) Whether this polluted water is released in canals of the State of Rajasthan at Harike;
- (c) Whether Government intends to take action as per law against the industries which are directly responsible for polluting the canal water being supplied to Rajasthan, if so, till when; and
- (d) If not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b)

According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), river Sutlej after crossing Nangal, passes through Ropar and reaches Harike Head Works. The water quality of river Sutlej deteriorates due to discharge of untreated/partially treated sewage and industrial effluent from cities and towns of Punjab including Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Phagwara.

The river Beas merges with the river Sutlej at Harike Head Works and after confluence, the major part of the flow is diverted through two canals namely Rajasthan feeder Indira Gandhi Canal and Sirhind feeder. Rajasthan State gets water from river Beas and Sutlej combined system.

(c) & (d)

The action taken with regard to industries and municipalities inter alia include: (i) installation of online (24x7) monitoring devices and adoption of water conservation practices by industry; (ii) issuance of show-cause notice by CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to Ludhiana Municipal Corporation and Shri Muktsar Sahib to five

Sewage Treatment Plants with major violations to the discharge norms. (iii) issuance of directions by CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding treatment and utilization of sewage; (iv) issuance of directions by CPCB under section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 regarding non-compliance status of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) to SPCBs/PCCs; (v) General discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with an aim to prevent pollution in the water bodies; (vi) assistance under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for implementation of projects that inter-alia include interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, crematoria, afforestation, public participation and awareness programmes.
