

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 689**  
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

**Dumping of Waste into Rivers**

689 Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many industries and dyeing units dump their chemical wastes into the nearby rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the measures taken by Government to restrain industries and other units from not dumping their wastes;
- (c) whether Government is committed to protect the river bank of Kaveri in the State of Tamil Nadu from dumping of waste;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) measures taken by Government to prevent polluting the rivers of the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a), (b) & (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has defined Grossly Polluting Industry (GPI) as an industry which is discharging effluents into a water course and (a) handling hazardous substances (as specified under the Schedule-I, Part-II of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules of 1989 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986) and/or (b) effluent having BOD load of 100 kg per day or more. Accordingly, as per the information received from SPCBs/PCCs, there are total 2,866 GPIs in the country. Out of which, 2,382 industries are operational, and 484 industries are self-closed. Number of complying and non-complying industries are 2,227 and 155 respectively. Show-cause notices have been issued against 75 units and closure directions have been issued against 61 units for non-compliance.

The measures taken by Government to restrain industries and other units from not dumping their wastes are as follow:

- Government of India enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and various provisions under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection of water bodies and the Central & State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the provisions of both acts to prevent and control pollution of aquatic resources.
- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India notifies industry-specific standards for discharge and emission of environmental pollutants under Schedule-I: 'Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from various Industries' of Environment Protection Act, 1986. So far, industry specific environmental standards, for 79 industrial sectors, including effluent standards for 46 industrial sectors have been notified. Industrial sectors, for which specific standards are not available, general standards as notified under Schedule-VI of Environment Protection Rules, 1986 are applicable.
- Government of India stipulated General discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with an aim to prevent pollution in the water bodies.
- The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) issue consent to establish/consent to operate and authorization to the industries in the States. SPCBs/PCCs monitor the compliance of industrial emissions/effluent discharges and other activities according to the prescribed standards. It is mandatory for all the polluting industries to operate only after receiving Consent to operate from respective SPCBs/PCCs. In case of non-compliance, action against industry is taken under provisions environmental acts.
- Further, hazardous waste generating industries are required to obtain authorization from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees under Hazardous and Other Wastes Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016; and the hazardous waste has to be disposed as per conditions stipulated in the aforementioned authorization.

(c) & (d) CPCB in year 2022 identified 311 Polluted River Stretches (PRS) on 279 rivers in 30 States/ UTs in the country including River Kaveri based on indicator of organic pollution i.e. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (3mg/L), by analysis of water quality data of 603 rivers on 1920 locations for the years 2019 and 2021. The polluted river stretches were distributed in five Priority classes based on the maximum BOD observed viz. 46 in Priority -I (>30 mg/l), 16 in Priority-II (20-30 mg/l), 39 in Priority-III (10-20 mg/l), 65 in Priority-IV (6-10 mg/l) & 145 in Priority-V (3-6 mg/l).

River Kaveri is monitored at 62 locations on monthly basis (33 locations in Karnataka, 28 locations in Tamil Nadu State) and one location at interstate point of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (at Ajibore) on quarterly basis under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). On River Kaveri, two polluted river stretches were identified in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu State in the year 2022 by analysis of water quality data of rivers monitored under NWMP for the years 2019 & 2021 considering Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) as criteria. Both stretches were also identified as polluted earlier in year 2018.

For rejuvenation of 351 Polluted River Stretches (PRS) identified by CPCB during the year 2018 including above mentioned two PRS on river Kaveri, action plans were prepared by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted by the respective State Government/ UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State /Union Territory for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB fit for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 mL).

Prepared action plans covers aspects such as Source control (Municipal sewage management, Industrial pollution control, Waste management), River catchment/Basin Management (Adoption of good irrigation practices, Utilization of treated sewage, Ground water recharge aspects), Flood Plain Zone protection and its management (Setting up of bio-diversity parks, Removal of encroachments, Rain water harvesting, Plantation on both sides of the river), Ecological/Environmental Flow (E-Flow) and Watershed management.

Implementation of time-bound action plans have been assigned to State Government Departments/ UT Administration Departments and are responsible for rejuvenation of polluted river stretches identified in the respective State/UT under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory. Overall responsibility lies with the Chief Secretary, State Governments/UT Administrations.

Progress of implementation of action plans is reviewed regularly by the RRC at State Level and Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) at Central Level.

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