

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 381
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

Vacancies in Pollution Control Boards

381. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) how Government looks at nearly half of the posts of Pollution Control Boards remain vacant;
- (b) whether it is a fact that more than 70 per cent of posts i.e., 204 out of 291 posts of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board remain Vacant;
- (c) how Andhra Pradesh and other pollution control boards, in the absence of staff, conducting quarterly and monthly sampling exercises, be it relating to water bodies or otherwise;
- (d) whether the National Green Tribunal has directed all States to fill the vacancies by April next year; and
- (e) if so, how Government will ensure that all States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, fill in the vacancies before deadline?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): At present, 204 out of the 291 sanctioned posts of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board are lying vacant. The Central Pollution Control Board has established a nation-wide network of 4,736 locations in association with State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees for the assessment of aquatic resources in the country under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). Currently, 160 locations are monitored under NWMP in association with the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) which includes 45 locations on rivers, 16 on lakes, 03 on tanks, 21 on wetlands, 05 each on reservoirs & canals, 27 locations on coastal waters, 04 on drains, 01 location on STP and 33 locations on ground water. Monitoring at all locations is carried out by Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) as per prescribed frequency, and data is submitted to CPCB through Environmental Water Quality Data Entry System (EWQDES) periodically. SPCBs/PCCs also outsource scientific and other manpower. Additionally, the air quality and noise monitoring are carried out under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP), National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network (NANMN) respectively. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, there are total 72 NAMP stations and 8 NANMN stations are in operation. The Hon'ble NGT, referring to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, directed that "the State/UTs not covered by the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.08.2024 will also fill up the posts lying vacant in the SPCBs/PCCs by the latest 30.04.2025.

The Hon'ble NGT has directed all the SPCBs/PCCs to submit the progress report of the compliance of above said order be filed by the States /UTs before the next hearing date of 09.01.2025, including the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The notifications were issued to initiate the process for filling-up of 21 Asstt. Environmental Engineer vide notification No.15/2023 dated 26-12-2023 and 18 Analysts Gr.-II posts vide Notification No.02/2024, dated 9-2-2024 through Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission.
