

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Underutilization of environmental funds by CPCB

1029. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of the funds collected by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) remains unutilized, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the funds collected and utilized by the CPCB in last five years, State- wise;
- (c) whether a significant amount of the funds are spent on building CPCB's computational network instead of on environment restoration activities, if so, the steps taken by the Government; and
- (d) the strategy to increase transparency regarding the utilization of environmental protection funds and whether it will publish periodic reports on how these funds are being spent?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) As on 30.09.2024, total available EC funds is Rs. 439.24 67. Out of the available funds, Rs. 202.81cr has been released to the State boards and 184.23 has been earmarked for specific purposes, and Rs. 52.20 cr is available with CPCB, as per the directions of National Green Tribunal. Projects of Rs. 223.44 cr from EC funds have already been sanctioned which is more than 50% of the total funds. Rs.1.06 crore was spent on “Strengthening of Computer Network in CPCB,” which is only 0.17% of the total NGT funds and falls within the scope of activities approved by Hon’ble NGT.

The ‘Environmental Protection Funds’ is constituted as per the provisions of section 16 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. As per provisions of the aforesaid Act, Central Government shall maintain separate accounts and other relevant records in relation to the Environmental Protection Fund and prepare an annual statement of accounts. The accounts of the fund shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and such audited accounts together with the audit report thereon shall be laid before each House of Parliament along with audit report given by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
