

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3096
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Vacancies in Pollution Control Boards

3096. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:
SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) Whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a watchdog of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and has some regulatory powers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether Government has any data on the number of posts lying vacant in the SPCBs and PCCs;
- (c) Whether Government is taking any steps to ensure timely compliance with the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) directive to fill vacant posts across pollution control boards by April 30, 2025, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) The steps taken by CPCB to streamline recruitment processes to address delays in filling vacancies?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a statutory organization constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. CPCB is entrusted with the powers and functions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. As per the provisions of Section 16 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the functions of the CPCB also involve coordination of the activities of the State Boards and resolution of disputes among them and to provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Boards, carry out and sponsor investigations and research relating to problems of water pollution and air pollution.

The regulatory functions of the Central Board are:

1. Plan and cause to be executed a nation-wide programme for the prevention, control and abatement of water and air pollution;
2. Co-ordination of activities of the State Board and resolve disputes among them;
3. Provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Boards, carry out and sponsor investigation and research relating to problems of water and air pollution, and for their prevention, control and abatement;

4. Plan and organize training of persons engaged in programme on the prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution;
5. Collect, compile and publish technical, statistical data relating to water and air pollution and the measures devised for their effective prevention, control or abatement;
6. Prepare manuals, codes and guidelines relating to treatment and disposal of sewage and trade effluents as well as for stack gas cleaning devices, stacks and ducts;
7. Lay down, modify or annul, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, the standards for stream or well, and lay down standards for the quality of air; and
8. Perform such other function as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, every State Board is bound by the directions given by the Central Board.

(b) : Based on the information received from State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs), total 5671 posts out of 11,562 sanctioned posts are lying vacant which accounts to 49% of total regular posts sanctioned in 33 SPCBs / PCCs, except State Boards of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Lakshadweep Pollution Control Committee where all the sanctioned posts are filled and no vacancy exists. The details are given as **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d) : The Hon'ble NGT in the matter of O.A. 693/2023 directed all the SPCBs/PCCs to fill up the posts lying vacant in the SPCBs /PCCs latest by 30.04.2025. In view of this direction, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has requested all the SPCBs/PCCs to submit comprehensive report tabulating information disclosed in the affidavits by SPCBs/PCCs w.r.t duration since posts are lying vacant, reason for not filling vacant posts, timeline for filling the vacancies. State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees are under the administrative control of respective State Governments/UT Administration and the responsibility to fill up vacancies in SPCBs/PCCs lies with the concerned State Govt./ UT Administration. However, Ministry has requested State Government/UT Administration to fill the vacancies, at the earliest.

Status of posts sanctioned and vacancy in SPCBs

| S.No. | SPCBs | Posts | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | Sanctioned | Vacancy |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 291 | 204 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 27 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 265 | 31 |
| 4. | Bihar | 127 | 30 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 328 | 204 |
| 6. | Goa | 140 | 13 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 430 | 260 |
| 8. | Haryana | 450 | 273 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 375 | 149 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 271 | 198 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 723 | 437 |
| 12. | Kerala | 434 | 25 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 1228 | 783 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 839 | 366 |
| 15. | Manipur | 119 | 75 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 152 | 71 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 14 | 4 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 17 | 0 |
| 19. | Odisha | 463 | 273 |
| 20. | Punjab | 652 | 309 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 808 | 488 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 11 | 11 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 1118 | 493 |
| 24. | Telangana | 230 | 104 |
| 25. | Tripura | 28 | 4 |
| 26. | Uttarakhand | 130 | 79 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 732 | 339 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 308 | 128 |
| Sub-Total (A) | | 10710 | 5351 |

Status of Posts in Pollution Control Committees

| S.No. | PCCs | Posts | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | Sanction | Vacancy |
| 1. | A&N | 9 | 3 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 9 | 1 |
| 3. | DNH&DD | 12 | 10 |
| 4. | Delhi | 344 | 153 |
| 5. | Jammu & Kashmir | 445 | 139 |
| 6. | Ladakh | 16 | 11 |
| 7. | Lakshadweep | 5 | 0 |
| 8. | Puducherry | 12 | 3 |
| Sub-Total (B) | | 852 | 320 |
| Total (A+B) | | 11562 | 5671 |