

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 60
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

Implementation of Environmental Protection Acts

60*. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) the key laws enacted for environmental protection in the country, detailed information about these acts;
- (b) the consequences for non-compliance with these environmental laws and the manner in which these actions are enforced; and
- (c) the information about the actions taken under these acts in the last three years, including specific initiatives and measures implemented in States like Punjab?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 60 DUE FOR REPLY ON 24.07.2025 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTS BY SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

(a) The key laws enacted for environmental protection other than that dealing with Forest, Wildlife and Biodiversity in the country and detailed information about such Acts are as follows:

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been enacted for protection and improvement of environment and the prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property.

Detailed information about the said act:

The Act consists of four chapters with 26 sections. It empowers the Central Government to take measures to protect and improve environment, power to give directions, laying down standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants, laying down procedure and safeguards for the prevention of accidents that may cause environmental pollution and remedial measures for such accidents. Further, it stipulates about measures to be taken for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution, establishing environmental laboratories, penalties for contravention of Act, appointment of adjudicating officer for determining the penalties. Thus it lays the foundation for various rules and policies, for the handling of hazardous substances. Under Rule 6 and 25 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 the following rules are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

1. The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
2. The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989
3. The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000
4. The Ozone Depleting Substance (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000
5. The Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022
6. Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006
7. The Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
8. The Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016
9. The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016
10. The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016
11. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
12. The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016
13. The Lead Stabilizer in Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pipes and Fittings Rules, 2021
etc.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 has been enacted to provide for the prevention and control of water pollution and the maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the purposes aforesaid, of Boards for the prevention and control of water pollution, for conferring on and assigning to such Boards powers and functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith.

Detailed information about the act:

The Act consists of eight chapters with 64 sections. The Act empowers the Central and State Governments for constitution of Central and State Boards. Accordingly, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in the States / Pollution Control Committees (PCC) in the UTs, were established to regulate the discharge of pollutants into water bodies and mandate treatment of industrial and sewage waste to promote cleanliness of streams and wells. The Act details about the powers and functions of Boards. It stipulates measures for prevention and control of water pollution by rendering power to obtain information, samples, entry and inspection, prohibition on use of stream or well for disposal of polluting matter etc. restrictions on new outlets and new discharges. Section 25 of this Act empowers the State Boards to issue consent to establish and consent to operate. Further, Chapter seven prescribes penalties and procedures for contravention of Act along with appointment of adjudicating officer for determining the penalties.

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 63 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 the Central Government after consultation with the Central Board, notified 'The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1975'.

The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:

The Act provides for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the aforesaid purposes, of Boards, for conferring on and assigning to such Boards powers and functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith.

Detailed information about the act:

The Act consists of seven chapters with 54 sections. The Act empowers the Central and State Government to establish Central and State Boards for the prevention and control of Air Pollution. It enhances the power of CPCBs, SPCBs constituted under the Water Act to exercise and perform the functions for the prevention and control of air pollution. Chapter four of the said Act stipulates measures for prevention and control of air pollution like power to declare air pollution control areas, to give instruction for ensuring standards for emission from automobiles, restrictions on use of certain industrial plants, power of entry and inspections, drawing of samples etc., Further, chapter six of the Air Act prescribes penalties and procedure for contravention of act, power of Central of Government and State Government to make Rules.

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 53 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Central Government after consultation with the Central Board, notified The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1982 & The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) (Union Territories) Rules, 1983.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021:

An Act to provide for the constitution of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas for better coordination, research, identification

and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Detailed information about the Act :

The Act consists of 31 Sections and five Chapters. The Act empowers the Commission to take all such measures, issue directions and entertain complaints, as it deems necessary or expedient, for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region and Adjoining. The Act also prescribes about Penalty for contravention of provisions of Act, rules, orders or directions.

(b) The Central and State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees are monitoring compliance to environmental laws. They take appropriate action against defaulters responsible for increase in all types of pollution (non-compliance to the effluent, emission norms, waste management etc.) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The non-compliances to the environmental regulations (Water Act, Air Act, E (P) Act and the Rules made thereunder), can result in monetary penalty, imprisonment, closure of industrial units/ activities, Environmental Compensation, Cancellation of Consent to Operate / Environmental Clearances etc.

(c) The information about the actions taken under these acts in the last three years, including specific initiatives and measures implemented in States like Punjab:-

A. The action / measures taken by the Government for prevention and control of Environmental Pollution are as follow:

1. The Central Government has notified several Rules under the above-mentioned acts, such as, the Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022, the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, the Water Purification System (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2023 and the Environment Protection (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2024, etc.

2. SPCBs / PCCs have been directed under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct concerned agencies in the State/UT to develop infrastructure for sewage treatment.

3. The Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) are being installed by 17 categories of industries and Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) to provides real-time information on effluent quality, enabling the identification of non-complying units and the implementation of corrective actions.

4. CPCB is also periodically issuing directions to all the concerned departments in the States for management of sewage and waste water in accordance with the provisions notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and for ensuring proper operation of existing STPs, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and industrial pollution control, under

Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as well as under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

5. CPCB has prepared guidelines for conservation and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in feasible industrial sectors, along with guidelines for the utilization of treated effluent in irrigation.

6. CPCB vide letter dated 17.02.2023 requested all the SPCBs/PCCs to ensure necessary action to prevent, control/abate pollution of stagnant water bodies in respective States/UTs as per provisions of Section 17.1. (a) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

7. A centralized air quality monitoring portal is operated by CPCB wherein, tracking of various information such as hourly PM concentrations, Live Air Quality Data of Monitoring stations and Live Air Quality Index is done.

8. Daily AQI Bulletin is published on CPCB website as well as social media platforms giving AQI information for cities across India. Various campaigns as well as informative posts related to air pollution, firecrackers, vehicular pollution, stubble burning, sustainable lifestyle, etc. are also posted regularly on social media platforms.

9. A comprehensive review of actions listed under GRAP was carried out by CPCB in 2020 based on actions taken and improvement observed in air quality in recent years. Based on the inputs given by CPCB, the revised GRAP was published by Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas (CAQM) and further directions were issued for its implementation.

10. Directions prescribing measures for control of pollution from various sources such as implementation of RECD system/ dual fuel kits in DG sets, use of cleaner fuels in industries, shift to EV/ CNG/ BS VI diesel fuel in transport sector, implementation of dust control measures at C&D sites etc., have been issued by CAQM.

11. CAQM has issued directions for co-firing of 5-10% biomass with coal in thermal power plants located within 300 kms of Delhi, and, in captive power plants of industrial units located in NCR.

12. Directions issued by CAQM to State governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to strictly and effectively implement revised action plan to eliminate and control stubble burning.

13. CPCB has framed Guidelines for grant of one-time financial support under Environment Protection Charge funds for establishment of pelletization and Torrefaction plants to promote utilization of paddy straw. In case of setting up of palletisation plant, Rs. 28 lakhs per tonne per hour (TPH), or 40% of the capital cost considered for plant and machinery of a 01 TPH plant, whichever is lower, is provided as one-time financial assistance with a maximum total financial support of Rs. 1.4 crore per proposal. In case of setting up of torrefaction plants, Rs. 56 lakhs per TPH, or 40% of the capital cost considered for plant and machinery of a 01 TPH plant, whichever is lower, is provided as one-time financial assistance with a maximum total financial support of Rs. 2.8 crore per proposal.

14. A total of 17 applications for establishment of pelletization and Torrefaction plants have been sanctioned so far, out of which 02 plants are not coming up. Pellet production capacity of 15 sanctioned plants is 2.07 lakh tonne/annum.

15. During stubble burning season of 2023 (10.11.23 onwards), 33 scientists of CPCB were deployed as flying squads for assisting CAQM in NCR and adjoining areas for intensifying monitoring and enforcement actions towards prevention of paddy stubble burning incidents in 22 districts of Punjab and 11 districts of Haryana. The flying squads coordinated with state govt/nodal officers/officers from respective districts and sent their daily reports to CAQM. During this year also, CPCB deployed 26 teams (in 16 districts of Punjab and 10 districts of Haryana) for the period 01st October - 30th November, 2024 for intensifying monitoring and enforcement actions regarding stubble burning.

B. The specific initiatives and measures taken by the Punjab Pollution Control Board are summarized herein below :

The Punjab State Pollution Control Board is implementing the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules made thereunder in the State of Punjab and in case any violation is observed of the environmental laws, suitable action in accordance with the provisions of relevant pollution control laws / rules is taken against the defaulters. Apart from taking action against the defaulters of pollution, the State Pollution Control Board in consultation and guidance from the State Government has taken certain initiatives and measures to improve the administrative procedures which are beneficial to the concerned. The brief facts are given herein below:

1. Consent Management Reforms

The clearances, consent to establish / operate, authorizations under various pollution control laws are being granted to the applicants through online system known as Online Consent Management and Monitoring System (OCMMS)

2. Action plans for cleaning of Rivers of the State.

The Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Punjab in consultation and engagement of various stakeholder departments has prepared action plans for the cleaning of the rivers of the State namely Sutlej, Beas and Ghaggar.

3. Bio-remediation of drains and commissioning of STPs by the Department of Local Government

In compliance to the orders 10.01.2020 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 606 of 2018 (compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules) the Punjab Pollution Control Board is imposing Environmental Compensation on monthly basis Urban Local Bodies which are not complying with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Due to this reason many Sewage Treatment Plants have been installed across the State. Bio-remediation of over 50 drain outlets has been carried out by the Department of Local Government.

4. Installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants across the State

08 Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been installed in the State of Punjab for treatment of industrial effluents and the brief facts are mentioned below:

- i. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 50 MLD capacity for treatment of industrial effluent of textile and dyeing industries at Tajpur Road, Ludhiana.
- ii. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 40 MLD capacity for treatment of industrial effluent of textile and dyeing industries at focal point Ludhiana.
- iii. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 15 MLD capacity for treatment of industrial effluent of textile and dyeing industries at Bahadur-Ke Road, Ludhiana.
- iv. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 0.5 MLD capacity for the treatment of industrial effluent of electroplating industries at Focal Point Ludhiana
- v. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 5.0 MLD capacity for the treatment of industrial effluent of leather industries at Leather Complex, Jalandhar
- vi. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 0.15 MLD capacity for the treatment of industrial effluent of bag tanning units at Phillour, District Jalandhar.
- vii. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 0.3 MLD capacity for the treatment of industrial effluent of electroplating units at Focal Point, Chanalon, District SAS Nagar.
- viii. Common Effluent Treatment Plant of 2.0 MLD capacity for the treatment of industrial effluent of pharmaceutical units at Village Saidpura, Dera Bassi, District SAS Nagar.

5. Conversion of brick kilns to zig-zag technology

All the brick kilns of the State of Punjab have been converted to Induced Draft / zig-zag technology thereby reducing the cause of air pollution in the State.

6. Policy intervention for promoting paddy straw usage in distilleries / bio ethanol and refineries / sugar mills.

The State Government has offered the incentive of State GST reimbursement on the cost of the boiler (based on paddy straw to be installed in industrial such as sugar mills, paper mills and boilers of steam generation capacity more than 25 TPH under the PBIP investment promotion policy of the State of Punjab.
