

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 532
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

Pollution of Buddha Nullah

532. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal has recently observed that a permanent solution is required to address the pollution of Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana;
- (b) the details of reports submitted by the Central Pollution Control Board and the Ministry regarding industrial discharge and compliance of Common Effluent Treatment Plants;
- (c) whether the Central Government has communicated any deficiencies in implementation of the Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project to the State Government of Punjab; and
- (d) the details of environmental compensation imposed on defaulting industries and the status of compliance by Government of Punjab?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the matter of Original Application No. 225/2022 and connected matters is hearing issues related to pollution in Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana. In its order dated 13.01.2026 in the afore-mentioned matter, Hon'ble NGT has directed the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) to impose and collect environmental compensation from industries and dyeing units that fail to comply with pollution norms.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has carried out inspection of the 4 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) viz. CETP-50 MLD, CETP-40 MLD, CETP-15 MLD-Bahadur Ke Road, and CETP 500 KLD (for Electroplating industries), in Ludhiana, Punjab during April 22nd -23rd, 2024 and 24th-25th December, 2024. As per these inspections, the afore-mentioned CETPs were found non-complying with respect to prescribed discharge standards and the disposal conditions specified in the environmental clearances granted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

CPCB, in exercise of powers conferred under section 18 (I) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, issued directions dated 12.08.2024 to PPCB to ensure compliance of the directions and to stop discharge into Buddha Nullah. Further, based on the inspection held during

24th-25th December, 2024, CPCB issued letter dated 19.03.2025 to PPCB for the compliance of the above directions issued by CPCB and for ensuring further compliance.

The inspection and monitoring report of the 4 CETPs carried out during December 24th-25th, 2025 has also been filed in Hon'ble NGT in the above-mentioned matter along with the aforesaid letter dated 19.03.2025 issued to Punjab Pollution Control Board.

As per the report furnished by CPCB, Government of Punjab has constituted a high level Committee for implementing comprehensive solutions for the rejuvenation and pollution control of Buddha Dariya / Nallah vide notification dated 14.07.2025.

As per the information provided by the PPCB, PPCB is taking action against violating units, including CETPs, Sewage Treatment Plant (STPs) and individual industries, under the "Polluter Pays Principle". The PPCB has imposed Environmental Compensation of approximately Rs. 21.18 Crore on common facilities, including CETPs, STPs and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) of dairy plants and small-scale water-polluting units discharging their untreated effluent below specified Standards into Municipal Corporation sewer leading to Buddha Nullah.
