

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1857

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

Pollution in Gang Canal

1857. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any note of the contaminated water flowing into Gang canal from Punjab to Rajasthan through Ferozepur and Sirhind feeder;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the directions likely to be issued to the Government of Punjab by the Union Government to prevent the said pollution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c) Gang canal (also called Bikaner canal) is getting water through Ferozepur feeder, which offtakes from Harike barrage situated at the confluence of Satluj and Beas rivers in Punjab. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) is regularly conducting survey of rivers Satluj & Beas as well as other point sources discharging into these rivers. As per the studies carried out by CPCB in collaboration with PPCB and Water Resources Department of Punjab, the water quality of rivers Satluj and Beas as well as the Rajasthan feeder canals is impacted due to discharge of untreated/ partially treated sewage and industrial effluent from cities and towns of Punjab.

This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement in identified stretches of various rivers through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for implementation of projects on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Under the NRCP, for conservation and pollution abatement of rivers Satluj and Beas, schemes pertaining to interception and diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, crematoria, afforestation, public participation & awareness, etc. has been sanctioned in 14 towns in Punjab at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 717.32 crore. Sewage treatment capacity of 644.2 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under the NRCP in Punjab.

CPCB had issued directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in November, 2014 to Punjab Pollution Control Board and Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board in the matter of contamination of Rajasthan feeder canals originating from Punjab for management of municipal as well as industrial wastewater in Punjab and conventional treatment with disinfection of water of the feeder canals for drinking purpose in Rajasthan. Directions has also been issued by the CPCB under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in May, 2018 on the issue of contaminated water in Rajasthan feeder canals originating from Punjab to the Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board to install Real time Water Quality Monitoring Systems (RTWQMS) at the respective jurisdiction of all inter-state borders on river Sutlej by the concerned Departments.
