

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1125
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Ground Water Pollution

1125. SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

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

- (a) whether indiscriminate use of chemicals and fertilizers during the last three years is a major cause of rapidly increasing ground water pollution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of the ground water during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the ground water available in the country in general is potable and suitable for various usages. However, localized occurrence of ground water having various chemical constituents in excess of the limits prescribed for drinking water use has been observed in some states. The commonly observed contaminants such as, Arsenic, Fluoride and Iron are geogenic, whereas contaminants such as, nitrates, phosphates, heavy metals etc. are anthropogenic i.e. owe their origin to various human activities including domestic wastewater, agriculture run-off, etc. Based on monitoring results carried out during 2015-2017, the pesticide levels have been observed to be either below detection limit or not detected at most of the ground water monitoring locations. Non-conformity has been observed at 1 location in West Bengal, 6 locations in Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The non-conformity with respect to heavy metals has been observed at 182 locations out of 807 locations monitored throughout the country during 2015-2017. The details are given in **Annexure**.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of the ground water, *inter alia*, include carrying out water quality monitoring under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at 3500 locations including monitoring of Ground water resources in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs); formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries, operations or processes; enforcing of these standards by SPCBs/ PCCs through consent mechanism and regular monitoring; installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System for 17 categories of industries and Grossly Polluting Industries in Ganga Basin to help to track the discharges of pollutants from these units; issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981; etc.

In addition, CGWB undertakes construction of wells for exploration of ground water and successful contamination-free wells are handed over to the State Governments for gainful utilization. They also undertake awareness generation programmes/ workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1125 due for answer on 08.02.2019 regarding 'Ground Water Pollution'

State-wise no. of non-conformity locations with respect to Heavy metals

State Name	Arsenic	Cadmium	Lead	Copper	Total Chromium	Nickel	Zinc	Mercury	Iron total
Andhra Pradesh	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Assam	-	2	10	-	-	4	-	-	6
Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Chandigarh	5	5	5	5	-	5	-	-	5
Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Goa	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	9
Gujarat	-	3	5	3	1	1	-	1	1
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	19
Kerala	-	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	3
Madhya Pradesh	-	5	5	16	7	10	-	3	15
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	6
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Nagaland	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	4	25
Odisha	4		2	17	-	2	-	-	6
Puducherry	2		-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Punjab			3	-	1	5	1	-	11
Rajasthan			9	1	-	-	-	-	NA
Punjab			-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Tamil Nadu	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Telangana			5	-	-	-	-	-	17
Tripura		1	11	6	-	15	-	-	22
Uttar Pradesh	3		8	4	-	6	-	-	15
West Bengal			-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	15	19	77	56	15	66	14	9	182