

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1968
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2023

Central Pollution Control Board

1968. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

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

- (a) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to curb rising pollution levels due to various industrial and other activities in various States in the country;
- (b) whether State PCBs are not able to handle the situation due to various factors arising out of various compulsions, including political interventions, if so, whether the Government proposes to engage third parties for independent inspections;
- (c) the measures that CPCB proposes to take to use technology as a tool to evaluate the source of these polluting activities so that remedial measures are taken for saving the ecology of the States; and
- (d) whether the National Green Tribunal's orders and directions are not implemented by the State PCBs, if so, the CPCB plans to take action in such cases?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (c):** The steps and measures taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are as follow:
- i. The CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) are implementing the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control pollution.
 - ii. General standards for discharge of Environmental Pollutants has been notified under schedule-VI of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. The Ministry notifies industry specific discharge standards under Schedule-I of Environment Protection Act, 1986. SPCB and Pollution Control Committees (PCC) in States and Union Territories respectively are adhered to ensure the compliance of these standards. So far, industry specific environmental standards, for about 80 industrial sectors, have been notified.

- iii. Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country wherein Central Pollution Control Board is the implementing agency.
- iv. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 131 cities (123 non-attainment cities exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards). City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in these 131 non-attainment/million plus cities to improve the air quality.
- v. The city specific clean air action plans target city specific air polluting sources like Soil & Road Dust, Vehicles, Domestic Fuel, Municipal Solid Waste Burning, Construction Material and Industries with short-term priority action as well as those to be implemented in a medium to longer time frame along with the responsible agencies.
- vi. CPCB identifies the polluted river stretches (PRS) considering Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) as criteria parameter by analysis of water quality data of rivers monitored under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP).
- vii. Inspection of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) located in seven river Ganga and Yamuna main stem states i.e. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal by Third party technical institutes namely IITs, NITs, MNIT, NEERI etc. jointly with concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) on annual basis since 2017.
- viii. CPCB has formulated charter based participatory approach to facilitate the industries for pollution control in major industrial sectors like pulp and paper, textile, sugar, tannery and distillery in river Ganga main stem states emphasising on technological upgradation, waste minimization practices and augmentation of effluent treatment plants (ETPs) which resulted in reduction in specific fresh water consumption, waste water discharge & pollution load and improvement in compliance.
- ix. The Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) are installed by 17-categories of industries and Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) through the directives issued by CPCB for getting real time information on the effluent quality and non-complying units were identified and actions were taken against these units.
- x. CPCB has formulated the methodology for categorization of industries based on pollution potential of the industrial sector and the purpose of the categorization is to ensure that the industry is established in a manner consistent with the environmental objectives and to prompt industrial sectors to adopt cleaner technologies, ultimately resulting in generation of no or minimum pollutants.

(d): In the cases of specific direction to CPCB by National Green Tribunal's, CPCB follow up with the concerned States and file the status on the implementation of directions to Hon'ble NGT.
