

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1060
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Discharge of Effluents into Canal

1060. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the contamination of canal water being supplied to Rajasthan State due to effluents being discharged by industries operating within the State of Punjab;
- (b) If so, whether the Government of India intends to take action as per law against the industries and Municipal Authorities in Punjab State which are directly responsible for polluting the canal water being supplied to Rajasthan, if so, the time by which said action will be taken and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government intends to intervene in the issue between the two States in order to assist its swift resolution?

ANSWER

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

(a): River Sutlej after crossing Nangal, passes through Ropar and reaches Harike Head Works. The water quality of river Sutlej is affected due to discharge of untreated/partially treated sewage and industrial effluent from cities and towns of Punjab including Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Phagwara. As per 29th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council dated 20.09.2019, untreated sewage and industrial effluent of a number of cities/towns of Punjab are discharged into river Sutlej and its tributaries/drains leading to the river.

(b) & (c): CPCB conducted random inspection of 14 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), 4 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and 29 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs)/ Highly Polluting Industries (HPIs) situated in the catchment of River Sutlej in Punjab State during June 23-25, 2021. The analyses of the visit reports reveal that 15 out of 29 industrial units; 2 out of 4 CETPs and 12 out of 14 STPs were found non-complying to the effluent discharge norms. Following actions were taken against non-complying Industrial Units, CETPs and STPs in accordance with the provisions under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

- i. CPCB issued show-cause notice issued under Section 5 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to six industrial units with major violations to the effluent discharge norms.
- ii. Communication for corrective actions was sent to nine industrial units with minor violations to the effluent discharge norms.
- iii. Show-cause notice under Section 5 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to The Municipal Commissioner (s) issued to five Sewage Treatment Plants with major violations to the discharge norms.
- iv. Directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 issued to the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) for seven Sewage Treatment Plants with minor violations (only faecal coliform) to the discharge norms.
- v. Directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 were issued to the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) for two Common Effluent Treatment Plants with major violations to the effluent discharge norms.

Further, in year 2018, based on water quality data of year 2016 & 17, 351 polluted river stretches (PRS) were identified by CPCB. Out of which, 4 PRS were identified in Punjab State including Polluted Stretch of River Sutlej from Rupnagar to Harike bridge under Priority Class I (BOD is >30 mg/L).

For rejuvenation of 351 polluted river stretches identified by CPCB during the year 2018, action plans were prepared by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted by the respective State Government/ UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State /Union Territory for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB fit for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 mL).
