

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2762

ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

MECHANISM TO KEEP POLLUTION FREE RIVERS IN RAJASTHAN

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Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism to keep the rivers free from pollution along with its characteristics;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints of releasing contaminated chemical-laden water from factories in Pali, Jodhpur and Balotra which causes pollution in Luni river in Rajasthan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the directions issued by the High Court and NGT have not been complied with on receiving various complaints including discharge of chemical-laden water from factories and HRTS of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) into Luni river and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to keep the Luni river pollution free?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) It is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies. The Govt of India provides financial and technical support to the states and ULBs under various programs like Namami Gange for the River Ganga and its tributaries, National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for river basins other than Ganga and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

As per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units and local bodies are required to install Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs)/Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) respectively and treat their effluents/sewage to comply with stipulated environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies. Accordingly, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take punitive action for non-compliance under the provisions of these Acts.

Besides, in compliance of the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Original Application No.673/2018 regarding rejuvenation of polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs are required to

implement approved action plans for restoration of the polluted stretches in their jurisdiction as identified by CPCB. Further, Central Monitoring Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India.

(b) to (e) As per the report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) published in 2022, it was found that the river Luni in Rajasthan, was polluted in terms of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution.

As per the CPCB, complaints were received regarding pollution in the Luni River, Rajasthan, caused by the discharge of contaminated water from factories in Pali, Jodhpur, and Balotra. The said complaints were forwarded by CPCB to the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) for taking appropriate action. According to RSPCB, there are 1831 textile units in Pali, Jodhpur and Balotra in Rajasthan. Out of 1831 textile units, 1674 are connected to Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), and 157 units have their own Effluent Treatment Plants. For treatment of industrial effluent, there are 9 CETPs with a total capacity of 110 MLD: 4 in Pali, 2 in Jodhpur, and 3 in Balotra. The number of complying and non-complying CETPs are 5 and 4, respectively.

The regulatory bodies take punitive action against non-complying CETPs.

Under NRCP, projects for setting up sewage treatment plants of 40 million liters per day (MLD) capacity in Jodhpur, Rajasthan have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.172.60 crore for pollution abatement of River Jojari, a tributary of river Luni in Rajasthan.

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