GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1335
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

Discharge of Industrial Effluents into the Rivers

1335. SHRI T R BAALU:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the down stream stretches of many Inter State rivers like Thenpennai in Tamil Nadu are being heavily polluted by the industrial effluents locate in upstream stretches; and
(b) if so, the details of deterrent and punitive actions taken by the Central Pollution Control Board and various Environment Tribunals during the last two years and the current year?

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

(a) & (b)
To monitor the pollution of water bodies in the country, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) has established a Water Quality Monitoring Network under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). Currently, water quality monitoring is carried out at 4736 locations in the country.

The discharge of sewage from cities and towns and industrial effluent is the main source of pollution of rivers. The Central Government has laid down standards for the quality of treated sewage and treated industrial effluent to be discharged into rivers and these standards are enforced by SPCBs.

The water quality data under NWMP is utilized by CPCB for identification of the polluted river stretches (PRS) based on the level of pollution in terms of the most significant pollutant – the organic matter content, which is measured in terms of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) concentration in the water. All locations/stretches of rivers which are exceeding the BOD limit (3 mg/L) in the Primary Water Quality Criterion for Outdoor Bathing are identified as polluted location/ stretches. The PRS are classified from Priority Class I to Priority Class V, Priority I being most polluted with BOD value of more than 30 mg/L and Priority V being least polluted with BOD ranging between 3 – 6 mg/L.

Based on the above identification and priority classification criteria, CPCB identified 311 PRS in the country during the year 2022 based on water quality data of year 2019 & 2021. Out of these PRS's, the Polluted River Stretch/ Polluted River location of Thenpennai river at Chokkarasanapalli Bridge (Bangalore) in Karnataka was identified as Priority-I with

maximum BOD value of 72 mg/L and PRS of Dakshinak Pinakini river along Mugalur was identified as Priority-I with maximum BOD value of 111 mg/L.

CPCB – Regional Directorate, Bengaluru monitors water quality of river Thenpennaiyar at Chokkarasanapalli Bridge at Karnataka-Tamil Nadu inter-state location under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) on quarterly basis. The assessment of water quality data for the year 2024 indicates that Dissolved Oxygen (DO) is observed as Below Detection Limit (BDL) (0.3 mg/ L), pH in the range of 7.24 - 8.1, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in the range of 17 - 52.4 mg/ L, Fecal Coliform in the range of 2,80,000 - 79,00,000 MPN/ 100 mL and Total Coliform in the range of 16,00,000 - 35,000,000 MPN/ 100 mL.

With respect to the action taken, it is submitted that CPCB in OA No. 1374/2025 before the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi has communicated to KSPCB to address the discharge of sewage/wastewater in river Thenpennai from the Bengaluru city and other significant sources to improve the water quality of Thenpennai river.

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