

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3992**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

**Release of Contaminated Water into Sutlej River**

3992. SHRI KULDEEP INDORA:

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

- (a) whether the release of contaminated water by industrial units and municipal bodies of Punjab into Sutlej river and Buddha Nullah which results in the polluted water being supplied to Indira Gandhi Feeder and Ferozepur Feeder through Harike Barrage is causing severe water pollution in districts like Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, Jodhpur and Barmer of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the status of action taken, issuance of notices, imposition of penalty, monitoring and remedial measures by the Pollution Control Board against these units; and
- (c) whether the Government has set any timeline for construction of Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)/Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) under Buddha Nullah Rejuvenation Project and issued any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)/ clear guidelines for supply of pure water in canals of Rajasthan?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a)to (c)**

CPCB jointly with Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has monitored the water quality of Buddha Nallah, East Bein, Indira Gandhi Canal (Rajasthan Canal), Ferozpur feeder canal at Harike Barrage and Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) in Ludhiana, Punjab in April, 2024.

Water quality of Buddha Nallah and East Bein was found non-complying with respect to General Standards for Discharge of Environmental Pollutants prescribed under Schedule-VI of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. The analytical results reveal that water quality of Indira Gandhi Canal is complying to the 'C' class of Water Quality Criteria for Designated Best Use i.e. Drinking Water Source after conventional treatment and disinfection whereas water quality of Ferozpur Feeder is not complying to the 'C' class of Water Quality Criteria for Designated Best Use with respect to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (BOD 5 mg/L as against < 3 mg/L or less).

Based on the inspection of the STPs and CETPs in Ludhiana, Punjab, CPCB issued directions to Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for necessary compliance. Subsequently, PPCB has issued the directions under Section 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to concerned CETPs.

Based on water quality data, 351 Polluted River Stretches (PRS) were identified by CPCB during the year 2018, out of which, 04 PRS were identified in Punjab State including Polluted Stretch of River Sutlej from Rupnagar to Harike Bridge under Priority Class I. For rejuvenation of 351 polluted river stretches identified by CPCB including the polluted stretch of River Sutlej, 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).

Progress of implementation of action plans are reviewed by the RRC at State Level and Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) constituted at Ministry of Jal Shakti at Central Level.

The said action plans covers aspects such as Source control (Municipal sewage management, Industrial pollution control, Waste management), River catchment/Basin Management (Adoption of good irrigation practices, Utilization of treated sewage, Ground water recharge aspects), Flood Plain Zone protection and its management (Setting up of bio-diversity parks, Removal of encroachments, Rain water harvesting, Plantation on both sides of the river), Ecological/Environmental Flow (E-Flow) and Watershed management.

Cleaning/Rejuvenation of rivers is a continuous process. It is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of the rivers in the country through Central Sector scheme of “Namami Gange” for the rivers in Ganga basin, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for other rivers in the Country. Apart from this, sewerage infrastructure is created under programs like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

The State Government of Punjab has undertaken Buddha Nallah Rejuvenation project. Under this project, 2 new STPs of 285 MLD have been established. 4 old STPs of 418 MLD have been rejuvenated. 2 Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) of 6 MLD capacity for management of dairy waste have also been established. In addition to this, 3 CETPs of 105 MLD for treatment of industrial waste water have been established at Ludhiana.

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