

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2015

Water Pollution

1575. SHRI ELUMALAI V. :

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

(a) whether most of the rivers and dug well water in the country contains Coliform bacteria much above the permitted level and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether pathetic state of sanitation is the main reason for this and if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees is assessing the river water and ground water quality at 1275 locations and 807 locations respectively in the country. Total & Faecal coliforms, which indicate presence of pathogens in water are conforming to the desired levels in 47% observations and 62% observations respectively in river water samples, whereas the coliform bacteria limit in ground water samples is exceeding at 667 out of the 807 locations.

(b) Discharge of untreated domestic sewage is a major source of coliform contamination in rivers as well as ground water. As per the recent study (2014-15) carried out by CPCB, the sewage generation from urban areas is estimated at around 62,000 mld, whereas the total treatment capacity available is only 23,277 mld (37% of the sewage generation). It is the responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not pollute rivers and water bodies. The Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for creation of sewerage infrastructure and setting up of sewage treatment plants by providing financial assistance under various Central schemes, including the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) programme of the Ministry, Namami Gange programme

of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme of Ministry of Urban Development. Further, a comprehensive programme has also been launched by the Government in 2014 under “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”, which includes total sanitation coverage and eradication of open defecation by providing access to toilet facilities to the people.

CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to the State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committees regarding treatment and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to 178 towns under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated in their jurisdiction.
