

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

Self Certification under Water Pollution Guidelines, 2026

1201. SHRI ROBERT BRUCE C:

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

- (a) whether the provision for Deemed Approval via self-certification for micro and small units under the Control of Water Pollution Amendment Guidelines, 2026 increases ecological degradation risks near vulnerable river basins;
- (b) the specific safeguards deployed to monitor hazardous effluent compliance of 'Red' and 'Orange' category industrial clusters located near the Thamirabarani River basin in Tirunelveli;
- (c) whether any real-time community-based environmental oversight panels have been institutionalized to report illegal midnight hazardous waste dumping; and
- (d) the details of strict penal provisions mandated against large-scale corporate repeat offenders under the updated 2026 rules?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Control of Water Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Amendment Guidelines, 2026 has the provision wherein Consent to Establish (CTE) shall be deemed to be granted for Micro and Small Units located in notified industrial Estates or Industrial area duly notified by the State Government/ Union Territory Administration or the concerned local body upon submission of a self-certified application in the prescribed form.

Under these guidelines, Micro and Small units located in Industrial Estates or Industrial area are required to obtain Consent to Operate (CTO).

Further, Micro and Small units not located in Industrial Estates or Industrial area has to obtain CTE and CTO from respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).

The deemed approval/self-certification provisions under the Control of Water Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Amendment Guidelines, 2026 do not exempt any eligible Micro and Small Units from obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC) wherever it is required under the EIA Notification, 2006, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The requirement for obtaining EC is determined by the nature, size and capacity of the project/activity as specified in the EIA Notification, 2006. Further, all the notified industrial areas are required to obtain

Environmental Clearance from the concerned authority under the EIA Notification, 2006 which incorporates environmental control measures.

(b) & (c) As per the information provided by Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, there are no industrial clusters near the Thamirabarani River Basin in Tirunelveli.

In Tamil Nadu, Government Order Ms No. G.O 213 dated 30.03.1989, is in effect. According to this G.O., "no industry causing serious water pollution shall be permitted within one kilometre of the embankments of rivers, streams, dams, etc." As a result, highly polluting industries are not allowed near the River Thamirabarani. There are, however, two industries—M/s. Madura Coats Private Limited and M/s. Sun Paper Mill Limited—located near the River Thamirabarani that were established before the issuance of this G.O. The unit of M/s. Madura Coats Private Limited has implemented a Zero Liquid Discharge system. M/s. Sun Paper Mill has been non-operational since 2021.

TNPCB has established Flying Squads as a special task force to monitor the illegal interstate movement of various types of waste, including biomedical and solid waste, unauthorized discharge of effluents into water bodies. The flying squad periodically collects the water samples from the infiltration wells of nearby Rivers. These squads coordinate with relevant departments such as the Police, Revenue, Transport, and Local Bodies.

(d) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, amended through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024, have provisions for penalty for continuous contravention, which include an additional penalty of ten thousand rupees every day during which such contravention continues. Further, The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 amended through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 has the provision for penalty for contravention by companies, wherein if any company continues contravention under section 15A(1), the company shall be liable to additional penalty of one lakh rupees for every day during which such contravention continues.
