

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Water is a State Subject and dams are generally owned, operated and maintained by the State Governments. There are no mandatory guidelines from Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. However, Central Water Commission (CWC) has issued guidelines from time to time on the subject of dam safety procedures and emergency action planning related to dam. Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that the safety norms during operation stages are being adhered to strictly as per CWC guidelines.

(c) to (e) Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that after this incident, they have issued instructions to various concerned Government/Semi Government organizations to observe the protocol during release of water downstream, besides observing other preventive measures, guidelines to update the dam safety norms/regulation, Disaster Management Plan, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), operation and maintenance manuals etc. in line with guidelines of CWC and its compliance in future. Further, the Government of Himachal Pradesh have stated that the matter is *sub judice*.

River pollution

†120. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to prevent the release of sewage and harmful effluents from factories into the rivers as sewage and harmful chemical effluents of factories are more responsible for polluting the rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, enacted by the Parliament in 1974, provides for a comprehensive Act to prevent the release of sewage and harmful effluents from factories into the rivers. This is a specific and comprehensive legislation institutionalizing simultaneously the regulatory agencies for controlling water pollution. It addresses contamination of water or alteration of the Physical/Chemical/Biological properties, discharge of sewage or trade effluent or other effluents likely to make water harmful or injurious. Further, the Act provides for punishment to the defaulters for prison term which shall not be less than one and half year but which may extend to six years with fine. The Central Pollution Control Board can also issue directions for closure of industry and disconnection of electricity in case of persistent defiance by any polluting industry.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.