

Pollution of ground water

†2550. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several millions litres of sewage water coming out of houses, towns and industries merge directly into rivers, ponds, step-wells and rivulets everyday in the country which is polluting not only the river, ponds and rivulets but also contaminating ground water on a large scale, consumption of which is causing a number of diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has conducted any study on pollution of ground water caused by sewage; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by the Ministry to treat the polluted water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), assessed sewage generation and treatment capacity for Urban Population of India for the year 2015. The sewage generation is estimated to be 61948 Million Litres per Day (MLD) approximately as against the developed sewage treatment capacity of 23277 MLD. Thus, approximately 38000 MLD untreated sewage is discharged directly into nearby water bodies, which has the potential to contaminate/pollute the aquatic resources both surface and sub-surface. Seepage of sewage waste in drinking water sources can cause diseases due to ingestion of microorganisms.

(c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has carried some studies on pollution of ground water due to sewerage and effluents in and around some select cities of India. During the studies, Nitrate concentrations in ground water was found to be more than the permissible limit of 45 mg/l as per the BIS for drinking water which can be attributed to anthropogenic activities. Ground Water Quality is also being monitored by CPCB at 807 locations in the country. It has been observed that sewage is the main cause of ground water contamination with 667 locations having Coliform contamination.

(d) Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between Central and State Governments. Cleaning of river Ganga and its tributaries falls within the purview of Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, while cleaning of other rivers in identified stretches is with NRCP under the Ministry of Environment, FOREST and Climate Change.

Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under the programmes, inter-alia include interception and diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development.

Under NRGBA, 80 projects in 50 towns of 5 States of the country for Ganga and its tributaries have been undertaken. STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) Capacity of 123 MLD has been created and ₹ 1501.32 crores have been released for these projects, so far.

For other rivers, NRCP has covered polluted stretches of 30 rivers in 74 towns spread over 14 States at a cost of ₹ 3527.57 crore. Sewage treatment capacity of 2296 MLD has been created so far under NRCP.

Pending irrigation projects of Himachal Pradesh

†2551. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that projects worth one thousand crore rupees from irrigation department of Himachal Pradesh are pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, by when these projects would be cleared by the Ministry;

(c) if not cleared, so far the reasons for the delay; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that despite several meetings of concerned authorities of the State with the Ministry, the outcome has been nil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (d) At Present, no Irrigation and Multipurpose Project Proposal of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh is pending with this Ministry. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Flood Management Scheme namely "Flood Protection Works on River Beas from Palchan to Aut in district Kullu, Himachal Pradesh" amounting to ₹ 1155.15 crore

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