

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Proposal for green cess**

*81. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to impose green cess; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the rate of such cess proposed and how it has been proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) This Ministry has no proposal under consideration to impose any green cess on the vehicles.

However, in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985 in the matter of "M.C. Mehta *versus* Union of India & Others" regarding air pollution matters in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR), the Supreme Court on 09.10.2015 has ordered levy and collection of Environmental Compensation Charge (ECC) at the following rates:

- (i) The category 2 (light duty vehicles etc.) and Category 3 (2 axle trucks) at the rate of ₹ 700/- per vehicle.
- (ii) Category 4 (3 axle trucks) and Category 5 (4 axle trucks and above) at the rate of ₹ 1,300/- per truck.

Supreme Court on 05.01.2016 ordered that the ECC will be twice the charge stipulated by the order dated 09.10.2015.

The Supreme Court in its order dated 09.10.2015 has further directed that the amount so collected ought to be exclusively used for augmenting public transport and improving roads, particularly for most vulnerable users, that is, cyclists and pedestrians in Delhi.

Discharge of harmful waste by industries into river Ganga

†*82. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 786 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2015 and state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken to check 764 polluting industries located on the banks of the river Ganga and the results thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of directions issued to the 200 industries under Section 5 of Environment Protection Act and 178 industries under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (PCP) Act and whether they have been followed up;

(c) out of 68 units proposed to be closed, the number of units and tanneries which have been closed; and

(d) whether it has been ensured that no garbage/harmful wastes are flushed into the river Ganga by the industries situated adjoining the river?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) Steps have been taken to monitor the compliance of 764 polluting industries located on the banks of river Ganga in the States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with concerned State Pollution Control Boards is monitoring the compliance of these industries. The CPCB has recently carried out two rounds of compliance verification of which, the first round was carried out in December 2015 and January 2016 and the second round of inspection in May - June, 2016. The remaining 66 non-complying industries have been issued with the letters and directions to secure the compliance.

The other important steps taken include:

- (i) Implementation of action plan relating to Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in distilleries; and
- (ii) Implementation of action plan for conservation of water in Pulp and Paper and Sugar industries.
- (iii) Forcing industries to install 24x7 On-line Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems.
- (iv) Out of 764 industries, 556 industries have installed such devices where the others are in the process of doing so.

(b) CPCB had issued directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to 200 industries on 31.12.2014 which includes 105 Tanneries. CPCB had also issued directions under Section 18 (i) (b) of the Water Act, 1974 to the State Pollution Control Boards of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal in respect of 178 industries. Out of 105 tanneries to whom directions were issued under Section 5 of EPA, 29 were issued with closure order.

(c) Closure directions had been issued in case of 65 units which included 29 tanneries. Subsequently, based on compliance, closure has been revoked except for 8 units which remain closed as of now.

(d) Ensuring that no garbage/harmful waste are flushed into river Ganga by the industries situated adjoining the river is an ongoing process through continuous monitoring and vigilance by CPCB. In addition to installation of online monitoring system, CPCB along-with State Pollution Control Boards is conducting physical checks as required to achieve this objective.

National E-Panchayat Mission Mode project

†*83. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of National e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project;
- (b) the number of panchayats which have been computerized, so far; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated for this purpose, State-wise and Union Territory-wise and their utilization, so far?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project that addresses all aspects of Panchayat's functioning, including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of licenses, certificates, tax collection, etc. To address the above aspects of Panchayat's functioning, the Ministry has developed core common software applications collectively known as "Panchayat Enterprise Suite" (PES). The present status of adoption of PES applications States/UTs-wise is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) As per the information supplied by the States and Union Territories, out of nearly 2.55 lakh Panchayats in the country, approx. 1.36 lakh Panchayats are computerized as on July 20, 2016 under the Central and State Government Schemes.

(c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj operated the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) till 2015-16 which included e-enablement of Gram Panchayats as one of the components. The utilisation certificates are submitted by the States/UTs against the total funds released for various activities including computerisation. The Ministry does not maintain record of each component separately. The release and utilisation status of funds under RGPSA is given in the Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.