

Remedial action for purity of surface water

*160. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Water Aid, an international organization, has stated in its report that 80 per cent of the surface water in India is polluted and is dangerous for health; and

(b) the details of the remedial action Government proposes to take to ensure that the purity of the surface water is preserved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) Water Aid, an international organisation and its study on 'Urban WASH: An Assessment of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Policies and Programmes at the National and Selected State Level' has been prepared with limited study in urban areas only and does not represent the surface water quality scenario of entire country.

However, Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors water quality of river at 429 key locations covering 67 main rivers, 138 tributaries and 55 sub-tributaries. The following 9 parameters are considered as toxic and hazardous to Human and Animal life. The analysis of data of these nine parameters for 2015-16 shows that the number of rivers and sites that exceeded the permissible limit is:

| Sl. No. | Parameters | No. of rivers | No. of Sites/Stations |
|---------|------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Arsenic | 1 | 1 |
| 2. | Cadmium | 64 | 112 |
| 3. | Chromium | 16 | 19 |
| 4. | Copper | 8 | 10 |
| 5. | Lead | 47 | 55 |
| 6. | Nickel | 38 | 56 |
| 7. | Zinc | No toxicity was found in River Water during test | |
| 8. | Iron | 67 | 110 |
| 9. | Mercury | No toxicity was found in River Water during test | |

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had been earlier implementing two separate programmes, namely National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country. To have better synergy and avoid overlap, both the programmes have been merged in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA). NPCA aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands and lakes for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and eco-systems through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach and a common regulatory framework. Under the NPCA scheme assistance is provided for conserving lakes and wetlands, on cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments. The various activities covered under the scheme include interception, diversion and treatment of waste water, shore line protection, lake front development, de-silting, bio-remediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey and demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation and community participation, etc.

Government of India has formulated the National Water Policy in 2012 in which several recommendations for conservation, development and management of water resources in the country have been made. National Water Policy, 2012 has *inter-alia* suggested that:

- Conservation of rivers, river corridors, water bodies and infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation.
- Source of water and water bodies should not be allowed to get polluted. System of third party periodic inspection should be evolved and stringent actions to be taken against the persons responsible for pollution.

Under Namami Gange, 81 projects have been taken for sewage treatment infrastructure on the banks of River Ganga. 14 of these projects have been completed. In addition, CPCB carries out extensive monitoring of Grossly Polluting Industries, to ensure their effluents meet the CPCB norms.

Forest based Projects

* 161. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the forest based projects approved by the Central Government during the last three years;