

The punitive action against those who pollute the environment including water, air or land is provided under the provisions of Section 15 of the Act, which stipulates punishment of imprisonment for a term not less than 5 years with fine of one lakh rupees, or with both, and in case the failure or contravention continues, with additional fine of five thousand rupees per day since the first conviction.

Further, as per the provisions of Section 19 of the Act, the Central Government or any authority or officer authorised by the Central Government can initiate action for taking cognizance of offences under the Act for invoking punitive actions provided under Section 15 of the Act.

The Government of India *vide* its Notification S.O. No. 3187(E) dated 07.10.2016 constituted the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) as an authority, under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and also constituted District Ganga Committees in districts abutting River Ganga and its tributaries for taking appropriate action in accordance with law for contravention of any law or the provisions of Notification dated 07.10.2016 resulting in causing pollution in the river Ganga and its tributaries.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is executing a project entitled "Pollution Inventorization, Assessment and Surveillance (PIAS)" under Namami Gange Programme. Under this project in 2018, 961 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) have been inventorized which are operating in the main stem of River Ganga and its tributaries in four states namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

During April, 2018 to July, 2018, 12 Technical institutes were engaged for carrying out inspection of the 961 GPIs and the inspection reports were assessed by the concerned SPCBs. Out of 961 GPIs, 256 units were found closed on the day of inspection, 472 units were found complying with the discharge norms and 211 were found non-complying and 22 units are permanently closed in these states. Respective State Pollution Control Boards issued 113 Closure and 98 Show Cause Notices to these units and the self-closed units were directed to remain closed.

Desiltation of rivers

2869. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for desiltation of rivers in the country;

- (b) whether Government is planning for desiltation of rivers Damodar and Ganga/ Hooghly;
- (c) the details of steps Government has taken for desiltation of the flood prone West Bengal;
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to forecast floods and rehabilitation post floods in the State of West Bengal; and
- (e) the steps taken for desiltation of flood prone rivers in the North India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (e) Erosion and deposition of silt is a natural process in alluvial rivers. Rivers carry, pickup and drop silt load as per their regime conditions *i.e.* discharge in the river, river slope, morphology, nature of silt etc. The measures for flood management including desilting of rivers are formulated by the State Governments as per their priority. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments by providing technical advice and promotional financial assistance for critical areas.

The issue of desiltation of rivers has been considered by Government since long. In this context, the following Committees had been constituted:

- (i) A Committee headed by Dr. B.K. Mittal, former Chairman, Central Water Commission in 2001 to study the problem of silting in the rivers.
- (ii) A Committee headed by Shri Madhav Chitale, Expert Member, NGRBA in 2016 for preparation of guidelines for works on desiltation from Bhimgauda (Uttarakhand) to Farakka (West Bengal).
- (iii) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A.B. Pandya, former Chairman, Central Water Commission in 2017, to address the issue of floods and siltation in the State of Bihar.

The findings of these Committees have been shared with all the stakeholders.

(b) and (c) Government of West Bengal has informed that desiltation of rivers and channels in the Lower Damodar Sub-Basin of Damodar valley catchment has been included in the upcoming World Bank assisted West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project. This mega project would be implemented over a period of 7 years commencing from 2019-20. Further, there is no immediate program for dredging of river Ganga/ Hooghly.

Rivers Kalaighai, Kapaleswari, Baghai and Chandia, located in the districts of Paschim and Purba Medinipur of West Bengal have been desilted during the period between 2012-13 and 2018-19. Desiltation of selective reaches of river Ichamati and Jamuna in West Bengal have been completed.

Desiltation and rejuvenation of most of the drainage channels and canals located in the South Bengal districts in West Bengal have been executed during last 7 years. A few examples are Bagjola Canal, Nowi Khal, Adiganga (Tolly's Nullah), Peali Channel, Kana Damodar, Maja Damodar, Howrah Drainage Channel, Shortcut channel.

(d) Central Water Commission maintains a network of 11 flood forecasting stations and 3 inflow forecasting stations in the State of West Bengal for issuing flood forecasts. Further, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has also set up a flood forecasting system in Damodar valley wherein flood forecasts are issued utilizing rainfall forecasts made by India Meteorological Department (IMD). The updated information on the quantum of flood releases scheduled from DVC Dams along with their expected time of arrival at five key locations in the flood prone lower Damodar area in the State of West Bengal are made available in DVC's online flood warning module in DVC website for circulation to all stakeholders and public at large for better flood management/pre-emptive measures to be taken by State administration. Rehabilitation work post floods carried out by State Government of West Bengal include closure of breaches of channels, river embankments, raising of banks etc.

Guidelines by BCCI to Indian players to play in foreign leagues

2870. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and BCCI have any guidelines or norms regarding participation of Indian players in foreign sports leagues;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of permission given to the cricket players for the same during last three years;

(c) if not, whether there is any specific guideline for giving permission to the current players to participate when no international tournament is going on; and

(d) details about the norms to recognise new international leagues for allowing them to ensure participation of Indian cricket players?