However, Honble NGT *vide* its order dated 03.01.2019 has directed that the notified guidelines may not be given effect to.

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan which is a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. In this regard, teams of officers from Central Government along-with technical officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were deputed to visit water stressed districts and to work in close collaboration with district level officials to undertake suitable interventions.

Water being a State subject, efforts to initiate suitable interventions including conservation and management of water resources is primarily States' responsibility. However, steps taken by the Central Government in this regard are at the following URL: *http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf.*

Polluted river stretches

2311. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board in its 2015 report, had identified 302 polluted stretches on 275 rivers, spanning 28 States and six Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the increase in numbers of polluted stretches, reflects higher pollution levels as well as an increase in requirement of setting up more water quality monitoring stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in its report of 2015 had identified 302 polluted stretches on 275 rivers in 29 States/Union Territories (UTs) through a network of 2500 monitoring locations based on the value of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). As per the latest report of CPCB, 351 polluted river stretches have been identified on 323 rivers in 31 States/UTs through a network of 3500 monitoring locations. Increase in number of monitoring locations and expansion of network has resulted in identification of more polluted stretches.