

Punjab have been identified as having polluted stretches based on Bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution. However, river Ravi does not figure in the list of polluted river stretches published in September, 2018.

(c) to (f) According to CPCB, Government of Rajasthan had requested for taking up the matter of preventing pollutants from flowing into river Sutlej and its tributaries with the Government of Punjab. This was discussed in the North Zonal Council meeting held on 20.9.2019 at Chandigarh with the Punjab Government.

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi has passed an order directing all the States and Union Territories (UTs) to prepare action plans for bringing all the polluted river stretches up to the bathing standards. In compliance of Hon'ble NGT order, action plans have been prepared by Government of Punjab which have been approved by CPCB; and is presently being implemented under the overall supervision of Government of Punjab.

Further, CPCB/State Pollution Control Board and Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Monitoring Committee constituted by Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 101/2014 is also reviewing implementation of action plans by the Punjab State.

It is the responsibility of the State Governments and the Urban Local Bodies concerned to setup facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and to ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into rivers and water bodies. The Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of rivers by providing financial and technical assistance. Under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), for conservation and pollution abatement of rivers Sutlej and Beas, schemes pertaining to interception and diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, afforestation, crematoria, etc, have been sanctioned in 14 towns at a cost ₹717.32 crores in Punjab. Sewage treatment plant of 648.20 million litres per day (MLD) capacity has been created in the State.

#### **Community participation in water conservation and management**

2331. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any serious note of community driven water conservation and management, in over 100 regions in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the conservation and management experiments can be replicated in other parts of the country by drawing upon an action plan;

(c) whether Government has any plan for revival of smaller rivers which are almost on the verge of extinction and have turned into drains or nullahs; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Water, being a State subject, initiatives on water management including water conservation in the country is primarily States' responsibility. However, the best practices on water conservation by various entities across the country have been compiled and put in the public domain for information and also with a view to replicate these best practices. Besides, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to States Governments through various schemes and programmes for water conservation, augmentation and efficient use of water resources. Water Harvesting and conservation works are supported primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Water Shed Development Component and PMKSY - Per Drop More Crop.

(c) and (d) A National Perspective Plan (NPP) for water resources development has been formulated which envisages transfer of water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins to improve availability of water. Under NPP, National Water Development Agency has identified 14 links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component and 16 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component based on field surveys and investigations and detailed studies.

#### **Construction of toilets in rural areas**

2332. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become Open Defecation Free as claimed by Government;