

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3282**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON MARCH 24, 2021**

**STPS IN TAMIL NADU**

**NO. 3282. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:**

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in cities of Tamil Nadu and the actual capacity utilization of these plants;
- (b) whether the Ministry has decided upon quality standards related to the reclaimed water from sewage, if so, the work undertaken on this front; and
- (c) whether there are limitations of available technologies for municipal waste water treatment in removing heavy metals and micro pollutants; and
- (d) whether this limitation is considered while including Urban Wastewater reuse as a special intervention area?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE**  
**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**  
**(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)**

(a) Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that 51 number of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been completed in 44 towns where Under Ground Sewerage Schemes (UGSS) have been completed. These 51 STPs have treatment capacity of 864.16 MLD (Million Litre per Day) with capacity utilization of 362.47 MLD. 22 number of STPs, with treatment capacity of 456.46 MLD, are at different stages of construction.

(b) The standard of treated water through STP is decided by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). National Urban Sanitation Policy of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) advocates that at least 20% of municipal water being consumed should be treated to the level which permits local reuse for purposes such as gardening, arboriculture, horticulture, road and equipment washing, flushing, boiler cooling or can be acquired by any thermal treatment plant which is located in vicinity of the STP for a distance of upto 50 KM away. This water can be used for cooling purpose as well.

(c) Usually, heavy metals are not found in municipal water supply, except where it is drawn directly by users from deep borewells. In general, unless the concentration of the specific pollutant is appreciably higher than that permitted under Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) norms, it is safe to allow time and nature to work on it. Waterborne plants and microorganisms usually have capability to deal with these pollutants in a natural way.

In case STP water is used for drinking water supply, it is treated with the appropriate pollutant removal systems, such as flocculation, coagulation, ion-exchange, etc and in exceptional circumstances, membrane systems may be used.

(d) Except in a very specific situation where the concentration of the micro pollutant or heavy metal is appreciably high; after removal of the priority pollutants such as pathogens and the excess nutrients in Nitrates, Phosphates and Sulphates, the water is usually fit for reuse in more than 99.9% of possible reuse purposes.

In those specific situations where the concentration of Micro pollutants is exceptionally high, it will be better to use upstream prevention measures and education to manage the situation, rather than treatment.

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