

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 721**  
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021

**POLLUTED WATER IN INDIRA GANDHI CANAL**

721 #      Dr. KIRODI LAL MEENA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that polluted water is released from Punjab into Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan, if so, since when this water is being released
- (b) the details of the action taken to stop the release of polluted water and
- (c) the details of the States which are affected due to this polluted water, district-wise and population-wise?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with Pollution Control Boards/Committees in different States/Union Territories (UTs) has been monitoring water quality of rivers and other water bodies across the country through a network of monitoring stations under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme. Based on water quality monitoring results, pollution assessment of rivers has been carried out by CPCB from time to time. As per the last report published by CPCB in September 2018, 351 polluted stretches were identified on 323 rivers based on monitoring results in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand, an indicator of organic pollution. These include one stretch each of Kali Bein (a tributary of Beas) as well as Satluj and Beas rivers in Punjab, which confluence upstream of Harike Barrage, and from where Indira Gandhi Feeder/Canal originates carrying water for irrigation and drinking purposes to serve the desert areas of Rajasthan. Water from Harike Barrage is released under the Water Treaty between the states of Punjab and Rajasthan.

Rivers in the country are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage from cities/towns and industrial effluents in their respective catchments, problems in operation and maintenance of sewage/effluent treatment plants, lack of dilution and other non-point sources of pollution.

(b) to (c) Cleaning/rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing process. It is the responsibility of the States/UTs and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into water bodies or land to prevent and control of pollution therein. For conservation of rivers, excluding Ganga and its tributaries, this Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers in

the country through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Under NRCP, pollution abatement projects for conservation of Satluj and Beas rivers have been implemented in 14 towns in Punjab namely Banga, Bholath, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Moga, Mukerian, Nawanshehar, Phagwara, Phillaur, Sultanpur Lodhi and Tanda at a total cost of Rs.717.32 crores, and 22 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of total capacity 648.20 million litres per day (MLD) have been constructed for treatment of municipal sewage.

Buddha Nallah, carrying untreated sewage, industrial effluents and other wastes from Ludhiana town, remains a major source of pollution in Satluj river. To overcome the problems, a Buddha Nallah Rejuvenation Project has been launched by the Punjab Government in December, 2020 at a total estimated cost of Rs.840 crore. The project envisages construction of 2 new STPs of capacity 225 MLD at Jamapur & 60 MLD at Balloke, refurbishment of 4 existing STPs of 418 MLD capacity, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) of capacity 40 MLD, 50 MLD & 15 MLD for cluster of small/medium scale dyeing industries, two Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) for 6 MLD waste from two dairy complexes, etc.

Discharge of industrial effluents is monitored by CPCB and the respective State Pollution Control Boards/Committees, and in case of non-compliance with the prescribed norms, actions are taken in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Based on inspections carried out by CPCB in June, 2021, actions have been initiated as per the statutory provisions against the STPs, CETPs and the ETPs of grossly water polluting units found non-compliant.

In compliance of the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Original Application No.673/2018 regarding polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs are required to implement action plans approved by CPCB for restoration of the said stretches in their jurisdiction within the stipulated timelines. As per the orders of NGT, regular review on implementation of action plans is undertaken in the States/UTs and also at Central level.

Further, to address the pollution problems due to opening of gates after shutdown of canal for repair/maintenance purposes, Punjab Pollution Control Board has issued directions to the State Water Resources Department to implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to ensure flushing out all pollutants accumulated upstream of Harike Barrage before releasing fresh water.

Indira Gandhi Feeder/Canal passes through the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, Indira Gandhi Canal traverses through its western part covering districts of Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Sriganganagar and Nagaur to provide water for irrigation and drinking purposes in these areas.