

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *142

ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN INDIRA GANDHI CANAL

***142 SHRI RAJENDRA GEHLOT**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that irrigation and drinking water of Satluj, Ravi and Beas rivers supplied to Rajasthan through the Indira Gandhi Canal has hazardous chemicals and higher chemical oxygen demand and biological oxygen than set norms, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the required sewerage treatment plant and combined effluent treatment plant are not there on the banks of said rivers in order to prevent the said problem, if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the States have been given financial assistance for this, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.142 to be answered on Monday, the 2nd August, 2021 on 'Hazardous chemicals in Indira Gandhi Canal'

(a) to (c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the 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 on Satluj and Beas rivers as well as Kali Bein (a tributary of Beas) in Punjab, which confluence upstream of Harike Barrage from where Rajasthan Feeder/Indira Gandhi Canal and Ferozpur Feeder originate.

Depending upon designated best use (DBU) of water, CPCB has classified them into Class A, B, C, D & E based on certain criterion in terms of parameters, namely pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Coliforms. Based on water quality monitoring conducted by CPCB in June 2021, it has been informed that BOD in Indira Gandhi Canal water ranges between 2.5 - 4.1 milligram per litre (mg/l) against the DBU criteria of <3 mg/l for Class C water, and as such requires conventional treatment and disinfection to make it suitable for drinking purposes.

Rivers in the country, including identified stretches of rivers Satluj and Beas, are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated and 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 source of pollution. Rapid urbanization and industrialization have compounded the problems.

Cleaning 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 of Punjab namely Banga, Bholath, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Moga, Mukerian, Nawanshehar, Phagwara,

Phillaur, SultanpurLodhi and Tanda at a total sanctioned cost of Rs.717.32 crore with sewage treatment capacity of 648.20 million litres per day (MLD) created in these towns. So far, Central assistance of Rs. 483.53 crore has been released to the Punjab Government for implementation of these works.

Buddha Nalla, carrying untreated sewage, industrial effluents and other wastes from Ludhiana town remains a major source of pollution in Satluj river. To address the problems, Buddha Nallah Rejuvenation Project has been launched in December, 2020 at a total estimated cost of Rs.840 crore. The project envisages construction of 2 new sewage treatment plants (STPs) of capacity 225 MLD at Jamalpur& 60 MLD at Balloke, refurbishment of 4 existing STPs of 418 MLD, 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. To address the gap between sewage generation and treatment for remaining catchment areas of rivers Sutlej and Beas, more STPs have been proposed.

Discharge of industrial effluents is monitored by CPCB and the respective State Pollution Control Boards/Committees through the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Central Government has notified General Discharge Standards and also industry specific effluent discharge standards under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 which are required to be complied by the industrial units, STPs and/or the CETPs for prevention and control of pollution in water bodies. In case of non compliance with the prescribed norms, necessary actions are taken by the regulatory bodies under the relevant statutory provisions.

CPCB has issued directions from time to time to Punjab Pollution Control Board, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board and the urban local bodies to ensure required treatment of municipal and industrial waste waters before discharging to rivers Satluj, Beas and their tributaries to prevent contamination of canals emanating from Harike Barrage. Based on inspections carried out by CPCB in June, 2021, action has 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, including these on rivers Satluj& Beas, States/UTs are required to implement approved action plans 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.