

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1318**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

**Pollution by major industries**

1318. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that major industries cause air and water pollution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent air and water pollution from big industries; and
- (d) the action taken/ contemplated against those industries that pollute water bodies in the country, including the penalties imposed/proposed?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) : Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) /Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) implements the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control environmental pollution. CPCB has identified seventeen Industrial Sectors, having high pollution potential, list of such industries is at Annexure-I. CPCB has also defined Grossly Polluting Industry (GPI) as an Industry which is discharging effluents into a water course and (a) handling hazardous substances (as specified under the Schedule-I, Part-II of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules of 1989 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986) and/or (b) discharging effluents having BOD load of 100 kg per day or more. There are total 4,602 units under 17 categories of high pollution potential industries.

The Ministry has issued Notifications from time to time laying down emission and discharge standards for various sectors of Industries under Environmental Protection Act (EPA), 1986. Industry specific environmental standards, for more than 80 industrial sectors has already been notified. The SPCBs/PCCs issue consent to establish/consent to operate and authorization to the industries in the States. SPCBs/PCCs monitor the compliance of industrial emissions/effluent discharges and other activities according to the prescribed standards and conditions. In case of non-compliance, action against Industry is taken under provisions of Water Act, 1974, Air Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. For strengthening monitoring and effective compliance through self-regulatory mechanism, Central Pollution

Control Board (CPCB) directed all 17 categories of highly polluting industries, Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) of Ganga basin, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), biomedical waste management facilities and common hazardous waste facilities to install Online Continuous Effluent/ Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) for constant vigil on pollution levels. On the basis of SMS alerts generated due to violations of environmental norms, CPCB started inspection-cum-monitoring of 17 categories of highly polluting Industries on random basis for appropriate actions.

(d) Regulatory agencies continuously monitor and regulate the Industries with regard to the pollution generated by them and compliance of environmental rules/regulations. As a result of such monitoring, it has been found that there are total 2,831 Grossly Polluting Industries in the country. Out of which, 2,353 Industries are operational, and 478 Industries are self-closed. Regulatory agencies have found 148 Industrial units as non-complying and Show-Cause Notices have been issued against 74 units and closure directions have been issued against 55 units . Legal actions were initiated against 8 units and action is under process against 11 units.

Since, 2016, based on the Online Continuous Effluent/ Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) alerts, CPCB has inspected 891 industrial units, out of which 407 units were found non-complying with environmental norms. Based on the severity of violations, closure directions were issued to 188 industrial units, out of which 164 units have later complied with the prescribed environmental norms. Therefore, closure directions for such units were revoked. For remaining units, closure directions of CPCB are still in force.

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**List of 17-categories of highly polluting industries**

1. Distillery including Fermentation Industry
2. Sugar (excluding Khandsari)
3. Fertilizer
4. Pulp & Paper (Paper manufacturing with or without pulping)
5. Chlor Alkali
6. Pharmaceuticals (Basic) (excluding Formulation)
7. Dyes and Dye Intermediates
8. Pesticides (Technical) (excluding Formulation)
9. Oil Refinery (Mineral oil or Petro refineries)
10. Tanneries
11. Petrochemicals (manufacture of and not merely use of raw material)
12. Cement
13. Thermal Power Plants
14. Iron & Steel (Involving processes from ore/scrap, and Integrated Steel Plants)
15. Zinc Smelter
16. Copper Smelter
17. Aluminum Smelter