

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2426
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/07/2019

Pollution of surface and ground water

2426. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) the quantum of increase in surface water and ground water, category-wise, during the last three years;
- (b) the measures Government is taking to reduce pollution of water bodies; and
- (c) the measures Government is taking to reduce the pollution especially from industrial discharge and dumping of solid waste?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) to (c) Water bodies in the country are polluted due to discharge of untreated sewage, industrial effluent, agricultural runoff containing fertilizers, pesticides, etc. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring the water quality of both surface and ground water under the National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP) through a network of monitoring stations across the country. The water quality is assessed for various parameters, including physico-chemical, bacteriological, heavy metals, pesticides, etc. CPCB has identified 351 polluted river stretches on 323 rivers during 2018.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), indicates the occurrence of contaminants such as Fluoride, Arsenic, Nitrate, Iron and Heavy Metals beyond permissible limits (as per BIS) for human consumption in isolated pockets in various States / UTs. The ground water contamination reported by CGWB is mostly geogenic in nature and does not show significant change over the years. However, nitrate contamination is mostly anthropogenic and its spread has been noticed in some areas, particularly areas adjoining habitations. Nitrate contamination can also be caused by excessive use of fertilizers.

The steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of water bodies, *inter alia*, include formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries, operations or processes; enforcing of these standards by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through consent mechanism and regular monitoring; setting up

of monitoring network for assessment of water quality; installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring systems (OCEMS) to check the discharge of effluent directly into water bodies; promotion of cleaner production processes; installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units; issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, etc. In addition, CGWB undertakes construction of wells for exploration of ground water and successful contamination-free wells are handed over to the State Governments for gainful utilization. They also undertake awareness generation programmes/ workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution.
