

Regarding need to address the problem of pollution of river Sutlej due to untreated sewage and industrial effluents from Punjab- laid

SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH (JAIPUR RURAL): Rajasthan receives its share of Ravi-Beas & Sutlej water from the Harike barrage. The water quality of the river Sutlej is affected due to discharge of untreated/partially treated sewage and industrial effluent from cities and towns of Punjab including Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Phagwara. Multiple surveys carried out by the CPCB, Punjab Pollution Control Board and the Rajasthan Water Resources department indicate high levels of total coliform and fecal coliform in both the Ferozepur and Rajasthan Feeders. Since the problem was first identified through a complaint by the state of Rajasthan to the CPCB, the states have had multiple rounds of communications, to little fruition. Widespread pollution in an important source of drinking water and irrigation has caused several health complications among people such as skin diseases, gastroenteritis, indigestion and loss of eyesight among others. Especially in the districts of Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar, regular exposure to contaminated water has propped up a cancer epidemic, taking a significant share of their population within its grasp. Given that there has been significant delay in the redressal to the matter, there is need for urgent government intervention by means of a Parliamentary committee.