

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1359**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

**Vacancies in Pollution Control Boards**

1359. SHRI K GOPINATH:

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

- (a) the reasons for 50 per cent of posts being vacant in the Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) across all the States and Union Territories; and
- (b) whether the Government has formulated a timeline to fill these vacancies and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

**(a) & (b):**

SPCBs/PCCs have underlined one or more reasons of vacant positions in their respective Boards/PCCs, such as;

- Recruitment Rules/Service Rules are under process/pending for approval, delay in sanction of staffing pattern, restructuring/upgradation of posts and changes in recruitment policy, abolition of posts.
- Court cases/proceedings, having bearing on recruitment/promotion.
- Bifurcation of State.
- Some posts proposed for surrender.
- New recruits not joining due to different reasons.
- No applications received for deputation posts/no suitable candidates found in feeder grade.
- No eligible candidates in the feeder cadre for promotional posts.

Appointment of officers and employees of the State Boards and Pollution Control Committees is being done under the regulation made by the State Boards/PCCs. Also, the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees are under the administrative control of respective State Governments/UT Administration and the responsibility to fill up vacancies in SPCBs/PCCs lies with the concerned State Govt./ UT Administration.

The Central Government has reminded State Government/UT Administration to fill the vacancies, at the earliest. In Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).13029/1985 M.C. Mehta Versus Union of India & Ors, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 8-5-2025 directed all the State Pollution Control Boards and Committees to ensure that all the vacancies are filled by the end of September, 2025.

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