

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2291
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
DISCHARGE OF HEAVY METALS
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some heavy metals are found in river water;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to check and regulate the discharge of heavy metals like lead and chromium etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) As reported by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the CPCB along with State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees is carrying out water quality monitoring at 1032 locations spread over 206 rivers, 61 lakes and 331 ground water wells. Of the 206 rivers, heavy metals are measured in 120 rivers, out of which 104 rivers are found to contain heavy metals like arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, chromium, nickel, zinc and mercury. However, as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS 10500), the concentration of most of these heavy metals is found within the prescribed drinking water limits except for chromium.

(d) The Ministry is implementing National River Conservation Plan to control the pollution of rivers from discharge of point sources namely, domestic waste waters and industrial effluents. To check and regulate the discharge of heavy metals from industrial sources, two important legislations have been promulgated namely, the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Under these regulations, several initiatives taken include setting up of standards for effluents, regular monitoring of effluents, special drive for highly polluting industrial units, promotion of low waste & no waste technologies etc.