

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:472
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
WATER QUALITY MONITORING
Khuba Shri Bhagwanth

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

- (a) whether only a few water monitoring stations are in place at present in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to establish water quality monitoring stations for all major rivers in the country particularly in Karnataka;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure quality of river water?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring the water quality of aquatic resources in the country under its National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). The present network of water quality monitoring stations comprises of 2500 stations in 28 States and 6 Union Territories spread country wide. The monitoring network covers 445 Rivers, 154 Lakes, 12 Tanks, 78 Ponds, 41 Creeks/Seawater, 25 Canals, 45 Drains, 10 Water Treatment Plant (Raw Water) and 807 Wells.

In Karnataka, the water quality is monitored at 63 locations out of which 61 are on rivers and 2 on lakes. The monitoring results obtained during 2012 indicate that organic pollution continues to be the predominant pollution of aquatic resources. The organic pollution measured in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Coliform bacterial count gives the indication of extent of water quality degradation of rivers in different parts of country. It is observed that nearly 63% of the observations are having BOD less than 3 mg/l, 19% between 3-6 mg/l and 18% above 6 mg/l as against a BOD standard of 3 mg/l. Similarly, Total Coliform and Faecal Coliform which indicate presence of pathogens in water are also a major concern. About 50% observations are having Total Coliform and 65% observations are having Faecal Coliform less than the standard of 500 Most Probable Number (MPN) /100 ml.

(d) Based on long term assessment of water quality data, Central Pollution Control Board has identified 150 polluted river stretches under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme in the country. The Central and State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974 to restore river water quality. The following steps are being taken to prevent and control pollution;

Control of Industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974

Implementation of a mutually agreed time targeted programme under Corporate Responsibility on Environment Protection (CREP) with a bank guarantee on various commitments

Special Drives in 17 categories of industries

Environmental auditing

Setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for clusters of Small Scale Industrial units

Identification and recommendations of urban centres discharging wastewater in aquatic resources having no treatment facilities for appropriate action to respective authorities.

Identification of urban centres under various River Action Plans for interception, diversion and development of treatment facilities.

Steps taken to augment flow in rivers for ecological considerations and the concerned Ministries/Department are being persuaded to provide adequate flow in the rivers so that rivers can attain its ecological balance including desired water quality for various beneficial uses.

Promotion of rain water harvesting practices in various regions of the country to augment the depleted water table and consequently improve quality of sub-surface water.

