

Release of Polluted Water in Ghaggar River

***366. Sh. Lakshman Napa, M.L.A.:** Will the Environment Minister be pleased to state:-

- a) Whether it is a fact that contaminated water of factories is released in the Ghaggar river due to which Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B etc. disease has been spreading in Ratia Assembly Constituency; and
- b) If so, the action taken by the Government to check the release of contaminate water in Ghaggar river?

Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister

Sir, a statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Assembly Question No. *366 by Sh. Lakshman Napa, M.L.A. regarding release of polluted water in Ghaggar river.

Sir, Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis-C and Hepatitis-D are not spread through contaminated water. But Hepatitis-A & Hepatitis-E are transmitted through faecal-oral route principally via contaminated water. 5 cases of Hepatitis-A were observed in year 2018 and 6 cases in year 2019 in Ratia block. No outbreak of disease has been reported in vicinity of River Ghaggar in Ratia.

The States of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and U.T. of Chandigarh have prepared an Action Plan for control of Pollution in river Ghaggar and various actions are being implemented to make river Ghaggar pollution free.

State government has constituted State Level Special Task Force headed by Chief Secretary and District Level Task Forces headed by concerned Deputy Commissioners for districts falling in catchment of River Ghaggar to ensure implementation of action plan.

Industrial units are being inspected regularly and penal action such as closure and prosecution is taken for all violations. New Sewage Treatment Plants & Common Effluent Treatment Plants are being installed. Finally, Sewage network is being laid in towns or cities in the catchment of river Ghaggar.

Statement referred to in reply to the Assembly Question No. *366 by Sh. Lakshman Napa, M.L.A. regarding release of polluted water in Ghaggar river.

NOTE FOR PAD

Viral Hepatitis:

Viral hepatitis is recognized as a public health problem globally. Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E viruses have been implicated that can lead to acute, chronic or sequel of chronic infection. While hepatitis A and E are often the cause for sporadic or outbreaks of hepatitis, hepatitis B and C can either clear spontaneously or can lead to chronic infection and there after sequelae like cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) and Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) are important causes of acute viral hepatitis and acute liver failure (ALF). Due to paucity of data, the exact burden of disease for the country is not established. However, available literature indicates a wide range and suggests that HAV is responsible for 10-30% of acute hepatitis and 5-15% of acute liver failure cases in India. It is further reported that HEV 10-40% of acute hepatitis and 15-45% of acute liver failure.

Transmission:

Hepatitis B, C & D diseases can spread through infected blood transfusion, blood products, sexual intercourse, saliva and through vertical transmission (Mother to child).

Hepatitis A & E are transmitted through faecal-oral route principally via contaminated water.

National Viral Hepatitis Control Program

The program was launched in July 2018 and all 22 districts are covered under the program. The program aims to combat hepatitis and achieve country wide elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030, achieve significant reduction in the infected population, morbidity & mortality associated with Hepatitis B and C viz. Cirrhosis & Hepato-cellular carcinoma (liver cancer) and reduce the risk, morbidity and mortality due to Hepatitis A and E.

Following activities are being done in the State to achieve the aims of the Program:

1. Prevention
 - Conducting IEC activities among the general population regarding safe socio-cultural practices, safe drinking water and hygiene.
 - Immunization of hepatitis B of all newborn's and health care workers.
 - Blood safety by establishing blood screening facilities at all blood banks.
2. Diagnostics and Treatment
 - Free screening, diagnostics and treatment is available in all the 22 district civil hospitals along with PGIMS, Rohtak.
 - Free screening, diagnostics and treatment of all prison inmates in all the prisons of the State.
 - Screening of pregnant women for Hepatitis B at all healthcare facilities.

Viral Hepatitis Cases in Ratia:

There has been no outbreak of diseases Hepatitis B & C and other diseases in Ratia. There were 5 cases of Hepatitis A reported in year 2018 and 6 cases in 2019 from various villages/town in Ratia and these were because of water contamination due to leakages in pipes (Details of cases attached in **Annexure I**). There has been no reported outbreak of diseases in vicinity of River Ghaggar in Ratia.

Health camps:

Health camps were organized in 2019 in catchment areas of River Ghaggar in District Fatehabad. A total of 29 health camps were organized in villages and towns. The details of disease specific patients identified in these camps are attached as **Annexure II**.

The River Ghaggar

The River Ghaggar originates in Sirmour District of Himachal Pradesh and travels a length of 320 KM through the State of Haryana, Punjab & Rajasthan. It enters the territory of Haryana in Panchkula District near Kalka. It passes through the district Panchkula to Mohali in Punjab. Then again it enters in Ambala and then re-enters into district Patiala in Punjab. It again enters in Haryana in Kaithal district and then crosses to Sangrur district. It again enters in Fatehabad district and crosses to Mansa district and re-enter in Haryana in Sirsa district and finally enter in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan.

Main Sources of Pollution in River Ghaggar

The River Ghaggar as well as the major drains out falling into the river is being monitored regularly by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) at different locations. The Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level does not conform to the prescribed norms at many points and the river shows fluctuations in dissolved oxygen (DO) levels from 'Nil' to 'above saturation' levels, thereby indicating the presence of organic pollution load and prevalence of eutrophic conditions. The quality of river starts degrading after the injection of treated effluent from STP at Sector-28, Panchkula and is in the range of 10-20 mg/l till the Sukhna Choe joins river Ghaggar. Thereafter, the River Water quality remains badly polluted throughout the length of the river when it criss-cross the boundary of State of Haryana and Punjab. The river is highly polluted after the discharge from the Sagar para Drain (Saraswati Drain) and the BOD value is in the range of approx. 60-100 mg/l.

Major drains of River Ghaggar in Haryana

There are 11 major drains, i.e. Sukhna Nallah, Jatton Wala Nallah, STP Panchkula, MDC Drain, Sukhna Choe, Ambala Drain, Ghail drain, Markanda River, Sagarpara (Saraswati) Drain, Kaithal Drain and Ratia Drain falling out in River Ghaggar in the State of Haryana. The water quality of all the drains is regularly being monitored by HSPCB. All the Drains carry effluent with BOD value exceeding the desired limits. The most polluting drain of the Haryana is Sagra Para Drain (Saraswati Drain) and it carries effluent having BOD more than 100 mg/l.

Constitution of State Level Special Task Force (STF) and District Level Special Task Force (DSTF) The matter of OA No. 138 of 2016- Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Moto case)

OA No. 138 of 2016- Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Moto case) is pending before the Hon'ble NGT regarding pollution problem in river Ghaggar. An Executing Committee has been formed by the Hon'ble NGT comprising of:-

1. Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chairman.
2. Dr. Vimal K Hatwal, Joint Director, MOEF, Chandigarh, Member.
3. Sh. J. Chandra Babu, Scientist-D, CPCB, Delhi, Member.

Incompliance of the order dated 07.08.2018 the State Government vide its order dated 29.08.2018 constituted State Level Special Task Force and District Level Special Task Force comprising of the following:-

State Level STF

1. Chief Secretary
2. Administrative Secretary, Environment Department
3. Administrative Secretary, Town and Country Planning Department
4. Administrative Secretary, Urban Local Bodies Department

District Level STF

1. Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District
2. Superintendent of Police of the concerned District

3. Regional Officer, HSPCB of the concerned District
4. Representative of the District Judge of the concerned District

The District Level Task Force has to submit monthly report to State Level STF and the State Level STF has to submit quarterly report to CPCB for onward submission to Executing Committee. The Executing Committee is to monitor the progress on fortnightly basis.

Action Plan for control of Pollution in River Ghaggar

The State has prepared action plan for control of Pollution in river Ghaggar and various actions are being implemented to make River Ghaggar Pollution free which include:-

1. Estimation of sewage in towns in catchment of river Ghaggar and preparing a plan to fill the gap in treatment capacity
2. Installation of STPs,
3. Installation of CETPs,
4. Regular Monitoring of industries and
5. Closure action against illegal industries,
6. Dredging & de-silting of drains in the cities,
7. Interception of sewage in un-sewered area of unapproved colonies,
8. Laying of sewerage,
9. Online Monitoring Devices by the STP, Industries etc.

Objective of the Action Plan

The objective/goal of the action plan is that the quality of river water should meet with the required value as given under:-

Quality parameter	Standard to be achieved
BOD	3.0 mg/l.
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	More than 5.0 mg/l.
Faecal Coliform	Less than 500 MPN/100ml.

Estimation of sewage and Action plan of Sewage treatment plants in catchment of river Ghaggar.

Action plan for existing, under construction and proposed STPs have been prepared by the concerned department i.e. PHED, HSVP and ULBD. There are total 27 towns of Haryana falling in the catchment of River Ghaggar generating 300 MLD sewage approximately having existing treatment capacity of 512 MLD. Further, the STPs of 49 MLD capacity are under construction whereas the STPs of capacity 62 MLD have been proposed by the concerned departments in the catchment area of River Ghaggar. However, Ambala is the only town having the gap in the treatment capacity of nearly 16 MLD. Moreover, STPs of 29 MLD treatment capacity are being constructed in Ambala and the work will be completed latest by 30.06.2020.

Action Plan for CETPs

4 CETPs of capacity 6.1 MLD at Panchkula, Ambala and Saha are operational in the towns along River Ghaggar and 2 CEPTs of 3 MLD are proposed at Jind and Sirsa.

Industrial effluent Management

The industrial pollution is controlled by the HSPCB through consent Management system. The Industries applies for obtaining consent in prescribed form. They submit detail of effluent to be generated and the capacity of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). The industries are either installed in Industrial Area or outside the industrial area. Most of Industrial areas are having CETP for the treatment of effluent generated from the industries (Trade + Domestic). All the Industries have installed their captive effluent treatment plants and there is no gap in the treatment of industrial effluent. There are 262 water polluting units in

catchment of river Ghaggar having industrial discharge in river Ghaggar. The industries have installed their ETP and treating the same before discharge.

Regular monitoring of industries by STF and action against violators

Vide order dated 29.08.18, The State Government has already constituted Special Task Force (STF) at District level, with Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District and Superintendent of Police and nominee of District Judge and Regional Officer of HSPCB as Members of the task force. This STF has been mandated to identify persons responsible for violation of law and norms relating to pollution in rivers and to conduct surprise inspections of polluting sources. The industries are being inspected and action initiated against the violators. The units are allowed to operate again, if they remove the deficiencies. The HSPCB has closed 17 water polluting industries falling in catchment of river Ghaggar and initiated prosecution action against 39 units. The detail of the units is given at **Annexure-III and IV.**

Closure action against illegal industries

The HSPCB has been regularly identifying illegal industries operating without consent of the board. The closure orders are issued against such illegal industries and electric connection are disconnected. This is ongoing activity and more such industries shall be closed as and when identified by the HSPCB.

Dredging & de-silting of drains in the cities.

As per the directions of Hon'ble NGT, Urban Local Bodies Department and Irrigation Department are regularly conducting the exercise of de-silting and repairs of drains under their jurisdiction and the details on its compliance are being reviewed in its meetings and at State Level by the Chief Secretary.

Interception of sewage in un-sewered area of unapproved colonies

There are many unapproved areas in most of the towns where sewage has not been tapped. For the task of tapping and treatment of the same before its outfall into the drain/ river, the ULBD was directed to provide a time bound plan and it has prepared the following plan with specific time frames for specific towns of Haryana.

Organization of Health Camps in the catchment of River Ghaggar (Jan-Dec, 2019).

Health Camps involving civil societies are being organized by Health Department every month in the vicinity of the river Ghaggar. Total 126 camps have been organized in 2019 and 8397 patients have been checked in the health camps. The details of health camps in catchment of river Ghaggar is given in the table as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of the district	No. of camps organized in the district (Jan-Dec, 2019)	No. of patients checked
1	Ambala	20	1677
2	Fatehabad	29	1898
3	Kaithal	49	2137
4	Panchkula	12	1708
5	Sirsa	16	977
	Total	126	8397