

June 30, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

MoEFCC has launched a major reform in monitoring the emissions and effluents from polluting industries throughout the country. The mandate given to the polluting industries was to install 24x7 real time monitoring devices at effluent and emission discharge points in industrial units. Out of 2800 industries to which directions were issued, nearly 50 per cent of the industrial units have moved towards compliance. More than 920 industries have installed 24x7 monitoring devices and another 400 units have moved towards Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD). The CPCB has started receiving online data of status of compliance with respect to effluents and emissions. This is a big leap in the management of pollution in the country.

New industrial units in Distillery, Textile, Tannery, Chemicals, Fertilizer, Pesticides, Dyes and Pharmaceuticals have been mandated to achieve ZLD from the commissioning along with installation of 24x7 monitoring systems. The existing units in these sectors are required to switch over to ZLD in a time bound manner. Since they will be moving towards ZLD, they are required to install web-cameras instead of continuous effluent monitoring devices. CPCB along with industry are continuously making progress towards all these aspects. Similarly, there are another 440 industries which are small in nature and their discharge is treated through common effluent treatment plants (CETPs). These CETPs will be monitored 24x7 through devices to be installed at both inlets and outlets.

Ganga cleaning is our top priority. On the main stem of River Ganga, there are 630 industries falling under the category of highly polluting nature, of which 440 are tanneries. Of the remaining 190, 80 units have already installed these devices and 30 units have placed orders for procurement of 24x7 monitoring devices. Therefore, 110 out of 190 units have moved towards compliance. As for tanneries, their effluents are treated at three major CETPs located in Kanpur, Banthar and Unnao. We have already planned a complete upgradation of these CETPs to achieve ZLD. CLRI is preparing DPR, which will be ready by next month. The actual work shall begin shortly thereafter. The Central Government extends 50% subsidy for these CETPs and the remaining is met by State Government and the industry concerned. We expect the upgradation of CETPs to be completed soon.

Directions have been issued for closure of some non-complying polluting units. The moment they comply with our directions they will be allowed to operate again.

We have discussed problems of each industry association and we are taking into account specific timelines for full compliance requested by them, which will be linked to Bank Guarantee. We will take required action wherever necessary.

There has been significant progress after June 2014. Ministry is confident of achieving complete coverage of 17 categories of industries over next few months.

Necessary preparations are also being made for handling the large data sets which shall be required to be analysed on real time basis. The pilot phase for SMS alert has been successful and as of today we have covered 56 industries. We hope to cover more industries in short time. SPCBs have also been asked to gear up for handling the data.