

4 new polluted stretches of rivers in U'khand in 3 yrs: CPCB

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Dehradun: The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in its recent report has identified four more polluted stretches of rivers in Uttarakhand in the period between 2015 and 2018. With this, the total number of polluted stretches of rivers has shot up to nine, up from five recorded by the board in 2015. Environmentalists said this was alarming as many other states, including the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh, had reduced the number of its polluted river stretches.

Details of the polluted river stretches around the country were revealed in a reply given by union minister of environment, forest and climate change, Mahesh Sharma in the Parliament a few days ago.

The minister provided a comparative chart of the number of state-wise polluted river stretches in the country in 2015 and 2018 compiled by the CPCB in September. The charts showed that Uttarakhand featured among the few states where the number of polluted stretches had increased from five (Bhela, Dhela, Suswa, Ganga and Kosi) in 2015 to nine including Kichha, Kalyani, Nandour and Pilkhar in 2018.

Responding to the question by Tamil Nadu MP, K Parasuraman, the minister said that across India, polluted stretches have increased from 302 in 2015 to 351 in 2018.

Referring to the rise in number of polluted stretches in Uttarakhand, social activist Udit Ghildiyal said, "This revelation means that the civic and industrial wastes are not being handled at the village and city level. For instance, Suswa river gets all the civic waste of Dehradun before joining Song River which further joins Ganga in Haridwar."

Echoing a similar view, environmentalist Ravi Chopra added, “More and more stretches of rivers are getting affected because of the increasing civic waste being dumped into the rivers and their tributaries. The state government must focus on decentralizing the waste water management system so that the untreated civic waste can be treated in smaller towns.”