

COMPREHENSION

The seasonal problem of water taps running dry is plaguing most of our major cities. With the bigger rivers flowing in trickles and ponds and wells reduced to clay-pits, village women in remote areas have to fetch every drop of water for drinking, cooking, washing and so on, across large distances. This has only worsened a perennial problem, that of widespread pollution of water, rendering it fit for human consumption. The monsoons—and the attendant floods will not solve this problem.

2. The Delhi Administration is seriously worried about the threat to civic health posed by the polluted waters of the Yamuna. Two new tanks are to be set up to treat sewage. At present only 60 per cent of the 200 million gallons of the city's sewage receives any kind of treatment before it is dumped into the river which supplies water not only to this city but to innumerable towns and villages downstream. The Ganga, the Yamuna, the Kaveri, in fact all our important rivers, serving many urban conglomerations are fast becoming a major source of disease.

3. A comprehensive bill, introduced in Parliament envisages the setting up of Central and State boards for the prevention and control of water pollution. But it will obviously take some time before legislation is passed and effectively implemented. Meanwhile the problem continues to swell. According to a survey of eight developing countries conducted a couple of years ago, 90 percent of all child deaths were due to water-borne diseases. It is the same unchanged story today.

4. In a country like India, a burgeoning population continuing to use the open countryside as a lavatory means that with every dust storm and rain, human excreta laden with germs and parasite spores find their way to ponds, shallow wells and even the streams and rivers. Only 18 per cent of the rural folk have access to potable water.

5. A new threat that has already assumed alarming proportions is from industrial waste which is generally dumped untreated into the nearest river. For instance, for every kilogram of process hide, 30-40 litres of foul smelling waste water has to be disposed off. There are at least 900 licence tanneries in the organised sector. Putrefied paper and jute waste, metallic waste from straw board and textile mills, sulphur, ammonia, urea, metallic salts and corrosive acid, all find their way to the rivers of India.

6. It is important not only to make new laws to ensure the purity of water but also to realise urgency of implementing them recklessly, if we are to avoid the national health disaster cutting across the barrier between towns and the countryside.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions

1. Which problem is highlighted in the given passage?

- a. reduction of ground water b. droughts
- c. water pollution d. all of these

2. According to the passage, women in rural areas

- a. try to obtain as much usable water
- b. have to travel long distances to get water
- c. both a and b
- d. die due to thirst

3. Which of the following is a threat to the residents of Delhi?

- I. zero level ground water II. lack of potable water
- III. lack of treatment of sewage IV. Yamuna is over polluted

V. open untreated water

VI. water borne diseases

a. I, III and V

b. III, IV

c. I,II and VI

d. III,V and IV

4. All our important rivers, serving innumerable towns and villages are fast becoming a major source of disease because

a. untreated city's sewage is dumped into the river

b. of lack of water in rivers.

c. the government does not bother to keep them clean.

d. both a. and b.

5. What is the purpose of the bill mentioned in the passage?

a. Creating financial scope for water treatment facilities

b. Creating central and state boards for control of water pollution

c. The bill looks into effective implementation of legislation

d. The bill looks into proper treatment of water bodies

6. According to the passage what can cut through the barrier between towns and villages?

a. Number of child deaths

b. Disaster caused by water pollution

c. Decreasing potable water

d. Civic health problems

7. Most child deaths in India are caused due to -

a. lack of portable water

b. water borne diseases

c. chemicals found in water and hygiene

d. lack of proper sanitation

8. Industrial wastes dumped in water are

- a. putrefied paper b. metallic waste
- c. corrosive acids d. all of these

9. Which of the following will be most appropriate title for the passage

- a. The Inevitable Evil of Pollution b. Water Scarcity
- c. Pollution d. Tackling Water Pollution

10. The Phrase “is passed and effectively implemented” refers to the implementation of

- a. Amendment laws b. legislations
- c. legal punishments d. All of these

11. Select the option that makes the correct use of ‘burgeoning’ as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.

a. Due to the _____ of technology and social media, public opinion is the most powerful political force in the world today.

b. The story, ‘The Pied Piper of Hamelin’ is about a rat infestation _____ the town.

c. He would now need plastic surgery to prevent further cuts _____ the rest of his career.

d. Birds are the biggest culprits _____ the grape vines.

12. Choose the option that correctly states the meaning of ‘dumped’ as used in the passage.

- I. garbage II. thrown III. wasted IV. left
- V. sold

- a. I and III b. IV and V c. III and I d. II and IV