

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5437
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
COASTAL POLLUTION
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is implementing a nationally coordinated research programme on "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System" (COMAPS) to assess the pollutants of water and the level of pollution of sea coasts in the Indian sub-continent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has found any chemical changes, other than increase in nutrients like nitrate and has taken action to reduce such pollution level; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) The Ministry of Earth Sciences is implementing a Nationally coordinated research programme on "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System" (COMAPS) to assess the health of the Indian coastal waters. Under COMAPS programme, the levels of pollutants are monitored at 76 locations along the Indian coast including the Andaman and Nicobar and the Lakshadweep Islands.

(c) & (d) Yes Madam. The chemical changes, other than the nutrients, observed were:

(i) Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and

(ii) pH at several locations. The level of DO has decreased at Porbandar, Mangalore, Tuticorin, Mandapam, Ennore and Visakhapatnam. The data collected under COMAPS programme are periodically submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board and concerned State Pollution Control Boards. The Sewage Treatment Plants and Common Effluent Treatment Plants are being setup to treat the municipal waste and industrial effluents in order to contain pollution in the sea. Along Veli in Kerala, the pH was initially very low due to discharge of industrial effluent has now increased to reach normal level. The concentration of mercury in the sediment, at all the locations along the shore, has shown a decreasing trend over the years, indicating decrease of mercury in the industrial effluents discharged into the sea.