

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:236
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
CONSERVATION OF SEA COASTS
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the sea-coasts near the tourist spots are getting polluted continuously;
- (b) if so, the facts and the findings in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to work out any action plan to preserve the sea-coasts and control the pollution near tourist spots;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (A) to (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 236 FOR 10.12.2012 REGARDING CONSERVATION OF SEA COASTS BY SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT.

(a)&(b) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board, it has been observed that the sea coasts at the tourist locations are exposed to the disposal of sewage and garbage. Pollution along the Indian coasts is caused chiefly due to industrial effluents discharge, disposal of untreated sewage, agricultural runoff, operation of fertilizer plants near coastal cities, towns and handling of fertilizers in the ports and harbors. However, the increase in coastal pollution is specific to a few locations and localized in nature.

(c)to(e) To assess the status of coastal pollution, Ministry of Earth Sciences has been implementing a nationally coordinated monitoring programme on 'Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS)'. About 20 locations of the coastal States/ Union Territories are being monitored to understand trends of pollution level. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has laid down effluent standards under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in order to ensure that the industries comply with the prescribed standards. The coastal stretches have also been declared as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) imposing restriction on industries, operations and process in the CRZ. The Central and the State Pollution Control Boards are regulating water pollution under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to restore coastal water quality.

The following steps have been taken to prevent and control coastal pollution;

- i. Control of Industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ii. Ensuring pollution control compliance in 17 categories of highly polluting industries.
- iii. Urban centres discharging wastewater in aquatic resources and having no treatment facilities have been identified for suitable action.
- iv. With respect to industrial effluents, consent management for compliance of standards is being enforced by State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees to improve the water quality.