

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5696

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

WASTE WATER DISCHARGE

Mahajan Smt. Poonam

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the city of Mumbai discharges 2700 mega litres of waste water per day into the Arabian Sea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the northern regions of the Arabian Sea have been turning hypoxic or low on oxygen as a result of waste water discharge; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) The estimated sewage generation in Mumbai is about 2700 Millions of Liters Per Day (MLD). The Municipal Council of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has provided 7 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with total treatment capacity of 2284 MLD, which is at Annexure. These STPs receive 1836 MLD of sewage. The water quality in coastal areas, creeks and estuaries is deteriorated due to discharge of partially/untreated sewage which finds its way into water bodies due to non-availability of proper drainage and sewage collection system in some areas. As per the National Report by National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Science Government of India, Chennai on subject "Support of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of The Marine Environment, Including Socio-economic Aspects" envisages that the eutrophication causes hypoxia which, in turn, affects living resources and biodiversity. The hypoxia is prevalence of suboxic or anoxic conditions, which are rare in Indian coastal areas, creeks and estuaries. The Cochin Backwaters, and the inland waters around Mumbai, are estuarine system where hypoxia has been recorded so far. This also indicates that Indian estuaries are only moderately eutrophied. To meet the challenge of hypoxia in coastal areas, creeks and estuaries, India has initiated capacity building programme for training and networking of researches/institutions in the Indian Ocean region. There are effective systems in place for regular reporting and assessment of the State of marine environment, including the Socio Economic aspects.