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Title: Need to take suitable measures to address the issue of increased salinity of coastal and island aquifers in the country.

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): The problem of salinity in coastal areas is a national problem and requires detailed studies in all the coastal States. The development of such areas requires special attention because they have remained neglected since long and the developmental efforts of the post- independence plan era have also not generally reached there for want of proper strategy, infrastructure and other impediments due to backwardness. If a solution is to be found for the problem of the coastal areas affected by salinity, these can be done by identifying them on the basis of a systematic Soil Survey.

The characteristics of salt affected lands occurring in the coastal tracts show wide variation in different areas. The soil, in general, is of moderate to heavy texture and is saline in nature. Sodium chloride is the dominant salt, where sodium sulphate constitutes the major component. The soil is acidic to neutral in reaction. The salinity status of the soil also fluctuates with the seasonal variation.

In coastal areas, prevention of further degradation of tanks and pollution of water in ghat sections and management of water distribution for domestic purposes in the water scarcity areas should be given top priority. Salinity and water-logging caused by intrusion of salt water are major problems in coastal areas of Karnataka. I earnestly urge the Honble Minister for Water Resources that the issue of increased saline intrusion of coastal and island aquifers due to rising sea levels, should be included in one of the schemes/programmes of the Ministry.