

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2963
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
MARINE POLLUTION
Ramadass Prof. M

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

- (a) the existing norms with respect to levels of marine pollution;
- (b) the level of marine pollution recorded along the coastline of the country during the last three years, location-wise;
- (c) whether the pollution levels are within the established norms; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken to check the increasing levels of contamination?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Based on the best designated use, the following five water quality criteria have been specified with respect to levels of marine pollution :

SW-I Salt pans, Shell fishing, Mariculture and Ecologically Sensitive Zone

SW-II Bathing, Contact water sports and Commercial fishing

SW-III Industrial cooling, Recreation (non-contact) and Aesthetics

SW-IV Harbour

SW-V Navigation and Controlled Waste Disposal

(b) & (c) The Department of Ocean Development(DOD), Ministry of Earth Sciences under the "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS)" has set up about 76 locations to monitor the trends of pollution levels along the coast line of the country. Results obtained from these locations indicates that coastal water of the country beyond 2 km. from the coast are free from pollution except in the sea off Mumbai where it is clean beyond 5 km from the coast. Further, marine pollution along the country's coast is localized and found only at few locations. These locations are Digha and Sandheads (West Bengal), Puri and Gopalpur (Orissa), Vizag and Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), Cuddalore and Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu), Veraval (Gujarat) etc.

The overall comparison of results indicate that at majority of the locations, bacterial levels exceed the prescribed limits. However, in case of coastal waters of Mumbai, dissolved oxygen was below the prescribed limit.

(d) The steps taken to control marine pollution are as under :

Setting up of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) by various industries to comply with the required discharge standards;

Monitoring of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) by the Coastal Municipalities to check pollution from domestic sewage.

Regular inspection of industries to ensure compliance with environmental norms;

Issuing directions under various Environmental Acts in cases of non-compliance.