

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 990
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Pollution in River Sal, South Goa

990. SHRI LUIZINHO JOAQUIM FALEIRO:

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

- (a) Whether most of the sewage water and other hazardous domestic waste are dumped into the River Sal in South Goa;
- (b) the number of times the sewage plants located in Sirvodem, Margao, Goa have released the sewage into the River Sal, if so, the action taken against the erring officials; and
- (c) Whether Government is aware of the report from Goa State Pollution Control Board showing the details of release of sewage in River Sal and in Saipem Lake, if so, the details of steps taken to remedy the situation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (c)

The pollution in rivers and other water bodies is increasing in metro cities and urban centres mainly due to rapid increase in population and resultant wastewater generation. The development of wastewater treatment facility is not commensurate with the increasing wastewater generation in urban centres. During the Year 2018, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 351 polluted river stretches (PRS) on 323 rivers on the basis of analysis of water quality data of rivers monitored under National water quality monitoring programme (NWMP) for the years 2016 and 2017 and distributed into five Priority classes based on the maximum Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels such as P-I (>30 mg/l) to P-II (20-30 mg/l), P-III (10-20 mg/l), P-IV (6-10 mg/l) & P-V (3-6 mg/l).

In Goa, 11 polluted river stretches have been identified in year 2018, out of which River Sal is under Priority Class III (BOD between 10-20 mg/l). Accordingly, Action plans for rejuvenation of said PRS have been prepared by four-member Committee called "River

Rejuvenation Committee” (RRC) constituted by the Goa, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory.

The prepared action plans covers aspects such as source control (municipal sewage management, industrial pollution control, waste management), river catchment/basin management (adoption of good irrigation practices, utilization of treated sewage, ground water recharge aspects), flood plain zone protection and its management (setting up of bio-diversity parks, removal of encroachments, rain water harvesting, plantation on both sides of the river), ecological/environmental flow (E-Flow) and watershed management.

The progress of implementation of action plans is reviewed by the RRC at State Level and Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti at Central Level.
