

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.: 3112
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.01.2018

Effect of Pollution on Marine life

3112: SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:

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

- (a) whether marine life in ocean and rivers has been affected due to chemicals, waste, garbage and sewage water discharged from industries and plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether death of a number of whales and dolphins and thousands of have been washed ashore near Adyar estuary fishes in Chennai have been reported recently due to pollution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a)&(b) Marine life in ocean and rivers gets affected due to pollution caused by chemicals, waste, garbage and sewage discharged into coastal waters from various sources including industries. These contaminants have adverse impacts on mammals, sea turtles etc., and other forms of marine life, besides incidences of fish deaths due to depletion of oxygen, algal blooms and change in colour of sea surface.
- (c)&(d) There has been no recent report on mass mortality of whales and dolphins near Adyar estuary. However, a number of fishes have been reported to have been washed ashore near the Adyar estuary, reported to be a highly polluted river. This has resulted in reduction in the oxygen levels in the water, leading to hypoxia condition, which is not conducive for the aquatic life.
- (e) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has laid down standards for effluent discharge under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, including the Water Quality Criteria (dissolved oxygen, bacteria, and heavy metals etc.) for safe discharge of treated effluent into the coastal waters. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 also prohibits the discharge of untreated waste water and effluents onto the coast/sea. Tamil Nadu State Government is also implementing projects for eco-restoration and pollution abatement in the Adyar River.
