

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No: 6451
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Changes in Coastal and Desert Areas

6451: SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to undertake a thorough study of various aspects of bio-geographical, chemical/biological changes in coastal and desert areas in the Western part of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with regard to Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu etc.;
- (c) the aims of the study along with the names of institutes related by the study;
- (d) whether the environment of the coastal areas of the Western India is affecting due to human interference; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Studies have been undertaken along the coastal stretches of western part of the country on various aspects of bio-geographical, chemical/biological changes in coastal waters. The levels of marine pollution are monitored on seasonal basis for various physical, chemical and microbiological parameters in coastal waters. The data generated helps in taking mitigating action, whenever pollution levels crosses the threshold values. Likewise, studies have been undertaken on Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India has been developed, which includes aspects of bio-geographical, chemical/biological changes in the desert areas in the western part of the country.

(c) The Ministry of Earth Sciences monitors coastal water quality under the project "Monitoring and Prediction of Health of Estuarine and Coastal Waters (COMAPS)". Ecosystem Modelling of South West Coastal Waters of India has also been undertaken by Ministry of Earth Sciences in order to provide scenarios of natural/anthropogenic changes in coastal productivity under the changing environmental conditions. National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has carried out the mapping of the coastal ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) including the Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCAs). The land degradation studies conducted by Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad revealed that desertification/land degradation area in Rajasthan has decreased by about 0.29 per cent in the period 2011-2013

as compared to levels of 2003-2005. For Gujarat, the land degradation has increased by about 0.94 per cent during the same period.

(d) & (e) The marine life gets affected due to pollution caused by chemicals, waste, garbage and untreated sewage discharged from industries and plants in the coastal stretches of the country. Such discharge causes nutrient enrichment of the coastal waters, which leads to algal bloom, eutrophication and hypoxia. These have diverse impacts ranging from change in colour of the sea surface to mass fish kills and adverse effects on marine mammals, birds, and sea turtles.
