

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 986**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

**Inquiry into Repeated Fish Kills in Periyar River**

986. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent mass fish kill in Periyar River on the night of 20th May 2023, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the number of incidents of fish kills reported in the Periyar River during the year 2024, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the main causes for these recurring fish kills, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to monitor and control the release of industrial effluents into the river;
- (e) whether the Government has investigated the explosion at the animal fat processing unit and the subsequent fire at a Chemicals unit in Edayar, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether any penalties or actions have been taken against industries found violating environmental regulations in this area, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c)

As per the information received from Kerala State Pollution Control Board, the incident of fish mortality was observed on the midnight of May 20th, 2024, affecting the entire stretch by the following day afternoon. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) surveillance team inspected the site and observed various types of dead fish floating in the river. On analysis of water samples, dissolved oxygen (DO) values were found below that required for survival of fish. It was informed that on 20.05.2024 at 3 pm, the Irrigation Department opened 3 shutters of the Pathalam regulator cum bridge due to intensified rainfall. The subsequent release of water with low dissolved oxygen levels from the upper side of the regulator, combined with a significant downstream flow, lead to fish mortality. As per the analysis conducted on 20.05.2024 at Vettukadav, the DO level decreased from 6.8 mg/l to 3.2 mg/l by night due to the above said activity. It has been noted previously that during prolonged closure of the bund during summer season, organic waste reaches the river upstream causing organic degradation and resulting in depletion of DO near the regulation bridge. Investigations suggested that the sudden, continuous, and strong water flow resulting from the opening of the bund caused a sharp decline in the value of DO at downstream and hence

the incident. There has been only one fish kill incident in the river Periyar and it occurred on 20.05.2024.

(d) to (f)

The Government of India notifies industry-specific standards for discharge and emission of environmental pollutants under Schedule-I: 'Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from various Industries' of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986 to monitor and control the release of industrial effluents into the river;. So far, industry specific environmental standards, for 79 industrial sectors, including effluent standards for 46 industrial sectors, have been notified. Industrial sectors, for which specific standards are not available, general standards as notified under Schedule-VI of Environment Protection Rules, 1986 are applicable. The concerned State Pollution Control Board/Committee ensures the implementation of said standards. In case of non-compliance with the environmental norms, appropriate action is taken as per the provisions of the environmental laws.

As per the information submitted by the Kerala State Pollution Board (KSPCB), Eloor-Edayar area in Ernakulam district is the major industrial area in Kerala where industries are located on either sides of River Periyar in its lower stretches. The Board has taken necessary steps to ensure safe disposal of all types of wastes from these industries and to facilitate preservation of the river and ambient air and also to redress the overall environmental issues in that area. An office of the Board (Environmental Surveillance center) is functioning in Eloor round the clock for continuous monitoring of the industries in the area.

Inspection of industries located in the Eloor-Edayar industrial area are carried out by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board as part of regular compliance monitoring. Periodic sampling is done in effluent-generating industries and based on any non-compliance found, letters/ notices/ orders/ directions are issued to the non-complying industries. Details of actions under various statutes taken against industries in Eloor-Edayar industrial area during the period from April 2024 to January 2025, are given at **Annexure I**.

Further, Kerala State Pollution Control Board had carried out inspections of Boiler explosion at Formal Trade Links on 07.10.2024 and the Fire incident at Jyothis Industries on 07.01.2025. Necessary action by the concerned agencies is taken as per law.

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## Annexure I

## Details of actions under various statutes taken against industries by KSPCB

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry	Date of Visits	Letter / Notice/ Direction issued based on non- compliance with consent conditions	Present status and details of Letter / Notice/ Direction issued based on non-compliance
1	M/s. PRIME METAL COATS	08.11.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Not complied
2	M/s. MATHRUBHUMI PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.LTD.	06.08.2024, 06.09.2024, 23.12.2024	Notice issued	Complied
3	M/s.BIOCON ORGANICS PVT. LTD.	29.07.2024, 04.09.2024, 09.10.2024, 19.10.2024, 28.10.2024, 02.12.2024	Closure Order (under Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) issued;	Closure order revoked after verifying the rectification of non compliances
4	M/s.NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	04.09.2024, 28.10.2024	Closure Order (under Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) issued.	Closure order revoked after verifying the rectification of non compliances
5	M/s.NELKADIR BONE	04.09.2024, 28.10.2024	Closure Order (under Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) issued;	Not complied
6	M/s.YEOMAN BONE AND ALLIED	04.09.2024	Closure Order (under Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) issued;	Closure order revoked after verifying the rectification of non compliances
7	M/s.JKS INDUSTRIES	17.08.2024, 28.09.2024	Closure Order (under Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) issued;	Complied
8	M/s.SUNRISE TSR FACTORY	17.08.2024, 28.09.2024, 21.10.2024, 17.01.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied

9	M/s.MAHAVEER RUBBER INDUSTRIES	17.08.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
10	M/s.ESSAR ENTERPRISES	16.08.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
11	M/s.SIYA ENTERPRISES	17.08.2024, 28.09.2024, 21.10.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
12	M/s.FIVE STAR INDUSTRIES	17.08.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
13	M/s.FORMAL TRADE LINKS LLP	17.08.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
14	M/s.GIJAS RUBBERS	17.08.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
15	M/s. PANCHAMI AGRO	17.08.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
16	M/s.RUBBER O MALABAR	17.08.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied
17	M/s.ARISTO STEEL FABRICATORS		Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Unit not operational now and rectification progressing
18	M/s.HI POWER INDUSTRIES	16.08.2024, 20.12.2024, 03.11.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Complied

19	M/S. ORGANO FERTILIZERS	04.09.2024, 16.11.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act)	Action under processing
20	M/s.ALPHA CRUMB RUB	16.12.2024, 21.10.2024, 16.01.2024	Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Not complied
21	M/s.KOCHI PLAST SOLUTIONS	24.09.2024	Notice issued	Not complied
22	M/s.SICGIL INDUSTRIAL GASES LTD	18.09.2024	Notice issued	Complied
23	M/s.JOYCE INDUSTRIES		Notice issued	Complied
24	M/s.SUCCESS EMPOWERMENT		Notice issued	Not complied
25	M/s.GAYATHRI INDUSTRIES		Notice issued	Complied
26	M/s.MICROTROL STERILISATION SERVICES PVT. LTD.	28.10.2024	Notice issued	Complied
27	M/s.EXELON HI FABS		Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Not complied, Action initiated
28	M/s.MAHINDRA LOGISTICS		Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Not complied
29	M/s.ASIATIC PRODUCTS		Closure intention notice issued (Section 33A of the Water Act and section 31A of the Air Act) ;	Not complied