

ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

Summary of Questions Asked

1) ***Powai :***

Getting Rs.10.5 crore from GoI. Inclusion and improvement of protection and beautification of Powai Lake under National Lake Conservation Programme Project is likely to be over by 2003.

2) ***Issue of CRZ violation***, protection of forests in CRZ areas, Mangroves, Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udyan (National Park).

3) ***Mangrove Park in Mumbai :***

Consistent follow up and getting sanction in principle for establishing Marine Mangrove Park near Eastern Express Highway from Vikhroli to Chembur. It will be a unique environment Mangrove Education – Awareness Project for the people of Mumbai.

4) ***Protection of Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udyan :***

Measures to protect Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udyan from illegal encroachers having Environment awareness centre on the Eastern side (Mulund)

5) ***CRZ Violation in Mahul – Chembur area*** – getting attention of the authorities to stop illegal reclamation, destruction of Mangroves by private builders, developers. Getting the area protected.

6) ***Pollution :***

Pollution by PSUs, private industries, Mumbai Mahapalika near Ghatkopar and Chembur area highlighted. Protection measures taken.

LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 6002

ANSWERED ON 06.05.2002

CONSERVATION OF POWAI LAKE

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have cleared the proposed encroachment of Powai Lake land by Mumbai Municipal Corporation and State Government with regard to road widening proposal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether as a result of this decision the National Lake Conservation Plan is likely to be affected adversely under which the Powai Lake has to be conserved;
- (d) if so, the extent thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government have received a number of complaints from any public representatives as well as local residents;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the said encroachments and also to conserve the Powai Lake?

ANSWER

- (a) Government has not received any proposal for clearing the encroachment of Powai Lake land or road widening from either the Government of Maharashtra or the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.
- (b) to (g) Do not arise.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 3318

ANSWERED ON 13.08.2001

DESTRUCTION OF MANGROVES IN MUMBAI

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

- (a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding destruction of mangroves and breach of CRZ in Muhul, Mumbai;
- (b) whether a private builder named ' Ever Sime ' builders has started construction of huge buildings, complexes in CRZ area;
- (c) if so, whether his Ministry has issued any directives in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have conducted any recent survey regarding CRZ in this area through any agency and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of observations and the action the Government propose to take in this regard ?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) M/s Eversmile Construction Company Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, have undertaken construction of a residential complex near Mahul creek.
- (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued directions under Section 5 of Environmental (Protection) Act,1986 to M/s Eversmile Construction Company Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, to stop destruction of mangroves and reclamation within Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and to stop further construction of the proposed residential complex in CRZ area and to demolish all constructions done within the CRZ area along Mahul creek in Mumbai.
- (d)&(e): The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Expert Committee on 1st August ,2001 to examine whether the constructions done by M/s Eversmile Construction Company Pvt. Ltd. near Mahul Creek in Mumbai are in accordance with the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of Maharashtra. The Committee has been asked to submit report within one month.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4252

ANSWERED ON 1.08.2000

DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND

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

- (a) whether Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal of diversion of forest land for development of Samadhi place and Temple of God Shiva at village Shirale, Terf, Malakapur, Tal Shahywadi Distt. Kanpur for approval;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any major illegal construction, commercial exploitation of this small piece of forest land is carried out since 1983;
- (d) if so, whether villages and Bhatta Mandali have offered an alternative piece of land to the Forest department;
- (e) if so, whether Maharashtra Government and various organisations have requested to the Government to consider the proposal; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

- (a) & (b) The Government of Maharashtra vide their letter no.FLD-2392/CR-156/F-10 dated 14th July, 1992 had submitted a proposal to the Central Government for diversion of 1.89 hectare of forest land for development of ancient 'Samadhi' places and Temple of God Shiva in village Shirale Terf Malkapur, Taluka Shahuwadi, District Kolhapur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (c) As per the information made available by the State Government, a 'Math' (monastery) was constructed by villagers on this land in the year 1984 in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (d), (e) & (f) The Government of Maharashtra, while forwarding the proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, had offered alternate non-forest land for compensatory afforestation. Also, in addition, compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land double in extent to the area being diverted has been proposed in lieu of the violation of the said Act. This proposal was rejected earlier by the Central Government on 5.2.1993. However, Ministry has received requests for reconsideration of the proposal and the same is under consideration of the Ministry.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 2245

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2000

ENCROACHMENT IN SANJAY GANDHI RASHTRIYA UDHYAN

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

- (a) whether the encroachment in Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udhyan, Mumbai have come to the notice of the Government ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether State Government has offered any alternative land for dereservation ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Approximately 500 acres of land in Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udhyan had been encroached for residential purpose.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The Hon'ble High Court has directed the State Government to relocate the persons concerned on an alternative site.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 6453

ANSWERED ON 08.05.2000

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES

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

- (a) whether the Government have amended the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules of 1989 removing several discrepancies to ensure safe processing and disposal of such wastes besides laying down stringent curbs on import and export;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which it will help in safe disposal of hazardous waste; and
- (d) the details of stringent curbs laid down on import and export?

ANSWER

(a) & (b). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests notified amendments to the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 entitled Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2000 on the 6th January, 2000 after incorporating suggestions/comments received on the preliminary notification issued on 8th January, 1999. Following are the salient features of the amendments including those prescribed to ensure safe disposal and regulation of import and export covered under the Hazardous Waste Rules of 1989 :-

1) The schedule listing 18 categories of wastes in the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 has now been substituted with 3 Schedules. Schedule 1 describes the processes and waste streams generating hazardous waste. Units operating these processes are now subject to the rules. A list of concentration limits of constituents in the wastes is indicated in Schedule 2. This concentration limit is to be used as limit for classification/ characterization of waste stream as hazardous/non-hazardous in case of dispute. A separate list of wastes subject to imports and exports, similar to the Basel Convention Annexure VIII and IX, is indicated in schedule 3 with hazard characteristics in part B of the same schedule.

2) Responsibility for identification of sites for establishment of Common Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (CTSDf) and individual TSDF now rests with the occupier, industrial association and the State Govt instead of the state government alone

3) Provisions relating to import and export of hazardous waste for recycling has been expanded to describe in detail the procedure being followed. Requirements of re-export under the Basel Convention of illegal traffic of waste has also been incorporated.

4) Rules on design, setting up and closure of landfill facilities have been elaborated.

5) A manifest system for tracking hazardous waste from the point of generation to the disposal site introduced.

6) The Authorities responsible for regulation of imports and exports and monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the rules have been mentioned in schedule 4; and

7) A fee for authorization and import has been prescribed.

(c) & (d) As per the amendment, the Occupier of units generating hazardous wastes will ensure setting up of facilities for disposal in addition to seeking authorisation from the concerned Pollution Control Board for handling wastes and track wastes till its final disposal through a Manifest system. The Occupier has also been made responsible for identification of Site, conduct of EIA and setting up facilities for disposal. Such sites for disposal are to be notified by the State Government. Import of wastes for final dumping and disposal in the country is prohibited. Only units possessing environmentally sound technology, disposal facilities and complying with environmental laws are recommended to the DGFT for grant of a licence for importing of waste listed in Schedule -3, to the rules.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 3082

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2002

SANJAY GANDHI RASHT RIYA UDHYAN MUMBAI

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

- (a) whether boundary of Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udhyan, Mumbai has to be re-measured and re-surveyed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any announcement to this effect has been made;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether eviction drive for removal of encroachment on the said park has been facing some difficulties; and
- (f) if so, the facts thereof and corrective measures proposed in this regard?

ANSWER

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 3368

ANSWERED ON 13.08.2001

MARINE MANGO PROJECT IN MUMBAI

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

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Peoples' representatives regarding Marine Mango Project in Mumbai;
- (b) whether his Ministry has studied the proposal and if so, the observations thereof;
- (c) whether about three thousand acres of salt land comes under CRZ zone can be used for this project;
- (d) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up issue with Urban and Industry Ministry; and
- (e) the response of the concerned Ministries?

ANSWER

- (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests has received a proposal from 'People's Representative' for creation of a Marine Mangrove Park at Mumbai.
- (b), (c), (d) & (e) Since the matter vests with the State Government the proposal was forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra for consideration.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 206

ANSWERED ON 18.11.2002

MARINE MANGROVE PARK IN MUMBAI

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

- (a) whether the Government have received any requests/ proposals from any Public Representatives or any other agency to provide financial and technical assistance through Indo-Canada Environment Project in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any proposal for Marine Mangrove Park has been submitted to the officials of Indo-Canada Environment Project;
- (d) if so, the details indicating the observations made in this regard;
- (e) the manner in which financial assistance is to be provided for the project along with its extent; and
- (f) whether any expert advice has been sought for in this regard and if so, the details indicating the view point of the authority?

ANSWER

- (a) & (b) A proposal for establishment of a Marine Mangrove Park in 1000 hectares in Mumbai along with a Mangrove Education Centre, series of watch towers, guided cruises for visitors , an information Centre, marine aquarium , library and other facilities for visitors to make it a tourist attraction, has been received.
- (c), (d), (e) & (f) The proposal was forwarded to India-Canada Environment Facility (ICEF) for consideration for funding. In view of fund constraints as well as the fact that ICEF was already funding two Mangrove Conservation Projects on East Coast and West Coast of the Country, it has not been considered feasible by them to support yet another project.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4553

ANSWERED ON 18.12.2000

POLLUTION BY PSUS

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

- (a) whether pollution problems due to public undertakings in Mumbai have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against polluting undertakings?

ANSWER

(a),(b),(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Chembur in Mumbai were posing pollution problems due to emissions of gaseous pollutants. There has been substantial improvement in environmental quality of the area after the industries have adopted pollution control measures as per the directions issued by Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board(MPCB).

A Committee was appointed by the State Government to review the industrial units causing foul smell problems. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the MPCB directed closure of one industrial unit in the Chembur area. The area is regularly monitored by the MPCB. The liquid and air effluents are collected periodically from the industrial units for taking appropriate action. The PSUs have also undertaken a tree plantation program, thereby improving the air quality in the area.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 1156

ANSWERED ON 27.11.2000

POWAI LAKE

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

- (a) whether the Government have finalized the action plan to save Powai lake;
- (b) if so, whether the Powai Lake, Mumbai is included in the National Conservation Plan;
- (c) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the subject with Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation;
- (d) if so, the details of the Powai Lake Project;
- (e) the sources through which the amount is likely to be arranged for the Project;
- (f) whether local encroachment and influx of sewage and polluted water into the Powai Lake has almost dampen one-third of the Powai Lake area;
- (g) if so, whether his Ministry has issued instructions to the Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation to stop quarring and to remove encroachment and other hurdles;
- (h) if so, whether the State Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation have implemented the instructions; and
- (i) if so, the present status of Powai Lake Project?

ANSWER

- (a), (b) and (i) Powai Lake is one of the 10 identified urban lakes for conservation under the National Lake Conservation Plan. The Plan has not been approved by Government so far.
- (c) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal for conservation of Powai Lake at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.50 crore. Out of this, a provision of about Rs. 6.0 crore has been proposed for conservation of lake and the remaining amount of about Rs. 4.5 crore for beautification of lake.
- (e) Since the project is not approved so far, the question of its source of funding does not arise.
- (f) Yes, Sir.
- (g) The Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board were asked in December, 1998 to take immediate preventive and curative measures for control of pollution of the Powai Lake. The State Government was also asked to take immediate steps to remove encroachment from the catchment area of the Lake.
- (h) Quarrying work has been stopped in the vicinity of Powai area by Collector, Suburban District, Mumbai. However, quarrying in Chandivali village is still going on as per High Court orders. At present there are no encroachments within the Powai Lake water shed area. The point sources polluting the lake are identified and works for abatement have been taken by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.

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