

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A National Lake Conservation Plan covering the following ten polluted urban lakes of the country has been formulated at an estimated cost of Rs. 637 crore. However, the scheme has not been approved by Government so far.

Name of the Lake	State	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)
Dal Lake	Jammu & Kashmir	297.90
Rabindra Sarovar	West Bengal	2.13
Sukhna	Chandigarh	44.38
Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	4.41
Nainital	Uttar Pradesh	46.36
Kodai Kanal	Tamil Nadu	19.29
Ooty	Tamil Nadu	26.64
Udaipur	Rajasthan	148.99
Powai	Maharashtra	31.02
Hussain Sagar	Andhra Pradesh	15.34
TOTAL		636.46

Say Rs. 637 crore.

Pollution threat to Taj

4143. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taj continues to be threatened on account of polluting units despite Supreme Court Order against the polluting units;

(b) the steps taken to protect marbles of the Taj against corrosion; and

(c) the measures taken to maintain the ambient air quality in Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir. The ambient levels of sulphur dioxides and oxides of nitrogen have reduced and are within the prescribed standards.

(b) and (c) The studies have indicated that there is no sign of corrosion of marble due to pollution. The steps taken to protect the Taj Mahal due to pollution and corrosion include the following:

- (i) A trapezium surrounding the Taj Mahal has been demarcated where no new polluting industry or expansion of the existing ones is allowed in the area.
- (ii) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up and being operated in Agra.
- (iii) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has initiated a ten point programme aimed at reducing air pollution in the Taj Trapezium by providing cleaner-fuels to the users.
- (iv) A Special Cell has been set up for overseeing the development of green-belt around the Taj Mahal.
- (v) A Mission Management Board (MMB) has been constituted by the State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for overseeing the implementation of the various programmes/schemes formulated for the protection of the Taj Mahal.
- (vi) The Archaeological Survey of India is involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the Taj Mahal.