

Sambhar lake in list of Ramsar sites

1854. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Sambhar lake of Rajasthan is one of the 25 Ramsar sites identified from India under Ramsar Convention and this lake has also been included in the list of 71 identified wetlands under National Wetland Conservation Programme for conservation and management;

(b) whether this lake is under stress mainly due to siltation and encroachment, resulting in shrinkage of its catchment area;

(c) whether any proposal for allotment of funds, is pending for consideration with Government for quite some time; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon and by when funds are proposed to be released to save this legendary lake from dying a slow death?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Siltation due to factors like desertification and overgrazing is a major problem faced by the Sambhar lake.

(c) and (d) So far an amount of Rs. 247.45 lakhs have been released for conservation activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, contour bunding, drainage line treatment, silt detention structures, check dams, gabion structures, etc. During current financial year, a proposal was received from State Govt. at a total cost of Rs. 178.79 lakhs for soil conservation and plantation work. An amount of Rs. 61.45 lakhs has been released to Govt. of Rajasthan for plantation work in three districts, viz. Nagaur, Sikar and Ajmer which fall under its catchment area.

CO₂ emission by airlines

1855. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether Government are planning to regulate airlines in terms of CO₂ emissions over our country in view of the impact of CO₂ emissions by them on our environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): No, Sir. As a Member State of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), India follows the requirements laid down by ICAO for emission standards. The aircraft under scheduled/non-scheduled operation in India are certified with emission levels within limits as prescribed by ICAO standards.

Control of domestic and industrial detergents

1856. SHRI V. HANUMANTHARAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note that in other countries, there is a specific policy for banning and controlling the use of domestic detergents and industrial detergents to prevent pollution of rivers;

(b) whether Government have completed a river-specific study on how much detergent is being discharged into any river;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to give notice to detergent producers to change chemical composition of their products and reduce water pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are 25 States in U.S.A. which have enacted legislative ban on the use of phosphate in detergents. Countries under European Commission have also taken regulatory measures on the manufacture, storage, marketing and use of detergents ensuring high level environment protection. These countries have instituted schemes on introduction of environment friendly products including detergents.

(b) to (d) No specific studies have been conducted for assessing quantity of detergents being discharged into rivers in the country. The Government have introduced a Scheme on Eco-mark and brought out a notification on soaps and detergents specifying that the products should not contain phosphate. Notification also requires that safety on use of the products shall be evaluated in conformity with the methods specified in Bureau of Indian Standards.