

Disappearance of lakes due to unregulated urbanisation

226. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large number of lakes across the country are either rapidly disappearing or their water becomes unfit for use due to unregulated urbanization;
- (b) whether Government, in consultation with the State Governments, proposes to bring in a mechanism to revive lakes especially in big cities; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to revive lakes across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Rapid urbanization, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do stress water bodies.

(b) and (c) For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry is currently implementing a scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. So far, a Total of 46 projects for conservation of 63 lakes have been sanctioned in 14 States at a Total cost of ₹ 1096.09 crore for undertaking works like providing sewerage system and sewage treatment plants, interception and diversion of sewage, desilting, catchment area treatment, storm water management etc.

Revival of urban lakes

227. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that urban lakes across the country are rapidly vanishing or their water become unfit due to encroachment or any change of land use pattern by State Governments;
- (b) whether the Central Government, in consultation with the State Government, proposes to bring in comprehensive mechanism to revive urban lakes across the country;
- (c) whether it is a fact that as much as 85 per cent of Bengaluru city's water bodies are severely polluted and are in the lowest grade of quality; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Rapid urbanization, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures, do stress water bodies.

(b) For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry is currently implementing a scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) on cost sharing between Central Government and respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has informed that it is regularly monitoring water quality of 75 lakes in Bengaluru City (Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike). The analysis report has indicated that 25 lakes confirm to Class-D & 50 lakes to Class-E, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) classification for designated best use of water.

The steps taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Karnataka Lake Conservation & Development Authority (KLCDA) and KSPCB are detailed in the Statement.

Statement

Details of steps taken by MoEF&CC, KLCDA and KSPCB

So far, MoEF&CC had provided financial assistance for conservation and management of seven lakes in Bengaluru namely, Vengaihnkere Lake, Nagvara Lake, Jarganahalli Lake, Lal Bagh, Bellandur Lake, Gowramma Lake and Hombalamma Lake.

KLCDA is a regulatory authority under the State statute titled "Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority Act, 2014". Steps are taken through the custodians of lakes situated within the jurisdiction of the Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) for preservation, conservation, rejuvenation and development of all water bodies/lakes situated in Bengaluru City. In addition, KLCDA is directly monitoring water quality quarterly in respect of 18 selected lakes of Bengaluru.

KSPCB is regularly monitoring water quality of lakes in Bengaluru City and communicating the analysis report to the custodians of lake viz., BBMP, BDA, Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) and KLCDA. The main source of Pollution of lakes in Bengaluru city is entry of untreated sewage and dumping of garbage. Directions were issued to Bengaluru Water Supply & Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on 15-11-2017, under

Section 33 (A) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974, the agency responsible for providing sewer network and sewage treatment plant. The directions are as below:

- (a) The BWSSB is directed to take up work on interconnecting the missing links of sewer networks (laterals, mains and sub-mains) on urgent basis in the catchment of Bellandur Lake.
- (b) The BWSSB shall stop the discharge of sewage into Bellandur Lake immediately.
- (c) The BWSSB shall take immediate action to upgrade the existing STPs to meet the revised sewage discharge standards (proposal for upgradation of STPs shall be submitted to KSPCB within 15 days along with plan of action to implement the same).

Further, the Board on 15-11-2017 has also requested the State Government to issue directions to BWSSB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. A criminal case has been filed against BWSSB (CC No. 928/2006 & CC No.30236/2015) under the Water (Preventions and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Board has allocated ₹ 100 crores to BWSSB to take the work of prevention of untreated sewage entry in to the lakes by establishing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in the Bellandur Catchment Area. The Board has also informed the custodian of the lakes to provide continuous 24/7 online monitoring equipment to monitor the lake water quality. The custodians of the lake are required to take necessary action to prevent entry of sewage and dumping of garbage into the lakes and to conserve the lakes.

Environmental pollution by landfill sites of Delhi

†228. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the scientific steps being taken in controlling and curbing environmental pollution caused by landfill sites in Delhi;

(b) the quantity of garbage being dumped per day at Gazipur, Bhalaswa and Okhla landfill sites in Delhi and the extent of damage being caused to the environment due to emission of harmful elements therefrom; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.