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|-----|-------------|------|-------------|
| 22. | West Bengal | 99.  | Kolkata     |
|     |             | 100. | Patna       |
| 23. | Bihar       | 101. | Gaya        |
|     |             | 102. | Muzaffarpur |

#### **Action taken to stop marine and air pollution**

1484. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ocean and river water is contaminated which kills most of the marine life;

(b) whether smoke emission from vehicles is making breathing difficult for everyone and garbage thrown out openly is a serious health threat to every living being; and

(c) if so, action taken by Government to stop marine and vehicular pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Marine life in ocean and rivers gets affected due to pollution caused by chemicals, waste, garbage and sewage discharged into coastal water from various sources including industries. These contaminants have adverse impacts on mammals, seas turtles etc., and other forms of marine life, besides incidences of fish deaths due to depletion of oxygen, algal blooms and change in colour of sea surface.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has laid down standards for effluent discharge under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 including the Water Quality Criteria (dissolved oxygen, bacteria, and heavy metals etc.) for safe discharge of treated effluent into the coastal waters. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) regulations also prohibits the discharge of untreated waste water and effluents onto the coast/sea.

(b) and (c) A number of measures have been taken by the Government to curb vehicular pollution such as adoption of BS VI standards from 1st April, 2017. Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi, in NCR since October 2019 and by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country for both fuel as well as vehicles, promotion of electric vehicles and manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out with an outlay of ₹ 10000 crore for 3 years, streamlining the

issuance of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates, permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted, operationalization of Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Western Peripheral Expressway in 2018 to divert non-destined traffic from Delhi, Use of RFID tags have been made mandatory for commercial vehicles entering Delhi, Network of metro has expanded in Delhi NCR with TOTAL length of 377 km and 274 stations and Environment Protection Charges (EPC) have been imposed on vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.

Regarding management of garbage thrown out openly, the ministry has notified Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 which *inter alia* prescribe the duties and responsibilities of waste generators and local authorities. The Rules prescribe that no waste generator shall throw, burn or bury the solid waste generated by him, on streets, open public spaces outside his premises or in the drain or water bodies. Further, the Rules direct the waste generators to segregate the waste at source and hand over the segregated waste to authorised waste pickers or waste collectors.

In order to tackle the problem of marine littering, the Government has come out with revised regulations for management of Plastic Wastes and notified “Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016”, which, *inter alia* regulates manufacture, sale, distribution of plastics aiming to minimize the plastic waste generation *vis-a-vis* encouraging recycling and re-use of plastic waste in road construction, energy and oil recovery. The Government of India along with International agencies have initiated several programs with the prime focus on reducing marine litter and other pollutants specifically plastic waste and promoting countermeasures against Marine Plastic Litter.

#### **Use of plastic by e-commerce companies**

1485. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to ban single-use plastics used by the e-commerce companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to launch any scheme for recycling of waste generated by the e-commerce companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?