

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2480
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021

POLLUTION IN GOA DUE TO OFF-SHORE CASINOS

2480 SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has studied the impact of off-shore casinos on river Mandovi in Goa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) Whether Government plans to take steps to curb pollution in river Mandovi in Goa; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has informed that TUV SUD South Asia Pvt Ltd was appointed for undertaking water audit of six floating casino vessels operating in river Mandovi at Panjim to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts, especially due to disposal of sewage with the operation of these casinos. The water audit indicates that there are no adverse environmental impacts of the operation of these vessels. Also, the little impact if any, would be readily addressed through mitigation measures outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Plan.

(c) & (d) It is the responsibility of the States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents before discharging into recipient water bodies or land for prevention and control of pollution therein. This Ministry, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers, excluding river Ganga and its tributaries, on cost sharing basis. To address the pollution concerns of river Mandovi, one project for sewage treatment of 12.5 million litres per day (mld) at Panaji has been implemented under NRCP at a cost of Rs.14.09 crore.

In case of pollution in river Mandovi due to operation of offshore casinos, it has been informed that wastewater discharge line is sealed by GSPCB and Captain of Ports after transfer of wastewater from casino vessels to the sewage barge. Casinos are also monitored every four months by the Committee constituted by National Green Tribunal.