GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 359
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

Health of aquatic ecosystems

359. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

(a) whether present 17 per cent contribution to globally scattered municipal waste has impacted aquatic biodiversity supporting 18 per cent of world's unique species, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the river health indices across 305 polluted river stretches identified by Central Pollution Control Board during 2024;
(c) the correlation between 1,52,245 metric tonnes daily waste generation and river eco-system degradation;
(d) the variations in aquatic species abundance in rivers with different pollution loads;
(e) whether Government has conducted a biodiversity impact assessment analysis of the rivers receiving 38,000 million litres of untreated waste; and
(f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (f): Several reports are published on municipal waste generation. These reports vary in their country-wise projections on account of different data sources and the uncertainty associated with data generation, assumptions, and methodologies used for making projections. As per the Annual Report prepared by CPCB on the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the quantity of municipal solid waste generated in the country in 2021-22 was 1,70,339 tonnes per day (TPD). The Government of India provides central assistance under the Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste management in urban and rural areas of the country. The solid waste processing capacity has increased by 1, 05,876 TPD under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, since 2014.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the year 2022 identified 311 Polluted River Stretches (PRS) on 279 rivers by analyzing water quality of 603 rivers in 30 States/ Union Territories (UTs) in the country based on Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution**.** As per the "National Inventory of Sewage Treatment Plants in India-2021" prepared by CPCB, a total of 72,368 million litres per day (MLD) sewage is generated in the country, and a treatment capacity of 36,668 MLD has been installed. Actual treatment by the installed sewage treatment plants (STPs) is estimated to be around 26,869 MLD.

The Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance in addressing the challenges of river pollution through schemes/programmes such as National River Conservation Plan and Namami Gange programme. Different pollution abatement works inter alia, include interception and diversion of raw sewage, sewerage system, and establishment of sewage treatment plants, as per scheme guidelines.

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