

**REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS TO GOA
DURING FEBRUARY 6 - 7, 2016**



**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
ZONAL OFFICE- SOUTH, BENGALURU - 560079**

The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology (S&T), Environment and Forests (E&F) headed by Hon'ble Chairman Shri Ashwani Kumar visited Goa on February 6-7, 2016. The meeting was held on February 06th, 2016 in the Majorda Beach Resort, South Goa. The Hon'ble members of the committee presents were:

Chairman: Shri Ashwani Kumar

1. Shri C P Narayanan
2. Shri Paul Manoj Pandian,
3. Shri Bhupinder Singh,
4. Shri Prabhatsinh Chauhan,
5. Shri Ninong Ering,
6. Dr. K Gopal,
7. Shri Shivaji A Patil,
8. Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan,
9. Shri Vikram Usendi,
10. Shrimati M Vasanthi.

The Committee held extensive discussions in Goa with representatives of NGO's/civil society organizations, experts and with the Senior Officers of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), State Government of Goa, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB), Goa Environment Department, Centre for Environment Education and other stakeholders on "The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 and "Impact of mining on environment in particular and environmental issues of Goa" in general. Dr. V Pattusamy, Scientist 'E' and Mrs. Poornima B. M, Scientist 'C' from CPCB, Zonal Office - Bengaluru attended the meeting along with Dr. Rashid Hasan, Advisor, MoEF & CC, Delhi , Dr. Susrala Sathya, Advisor, MoEF & CC Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Sh. Sanjeev Joglekar, EE, GSPCB & his team members.

The Committee heard views of leading NGO's/Civil Societies on various provisions of the compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015. Some NGOs/ Civil society members suggested that Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds should be permitted to be used for acquiring lands in eco sensitive areas and also private forests from the public in order to overcome loss of forests. It was also suggested that provision may be made for providing incentives to persons who are displaced or relocated elsewhere from eco sensitive zone. The NGOs and Civil society members made presentations before the parliamentary committee showing the deteriorating environmental conditions in Goa due to Mining, Tourism and Industrial activity. Further civil society members suggested for the improvement in Sewage Treatment facilities and Solid Waste Management in and around the cities and in Beaches. They also pointed that the silt of red mud generated because of mining has entered into fields and rivers adjoining the mining areas, which severely affected agriculture and riverine eco system.

The Committee had a discussion with the Chief Secretary of Goa, Secretary & Director of Forest Department, Goa and with the Chairman, Goa State Pollution Control Board regarding the Single Window Clearance accorded by the Goa State Investment & Promotion Board, Encroachments and Violations related to the CRZ regulations, Solid Waste management and Sewage disposal facilities, Effect of illegal mining on the ecology related to Ground and Surface Water and Ambiguity in the Definition of "Forest" and the coconut tree regarded as a type of grass in Goa. The president and vice-president of Goa Mineral Ore Export Association (GMOEA) made the presentation regarding the Mining and Management of Pollution with respect to Mining activity, construction of hospitals, schools & colleges and services rendered towards society.

The Chairman, Goa Board explained about the environmental status of Goa with respect to Solid Waste Management, Biomedical waste management, Sewage Management, Plastic waste and Water Pollution due to Mining. Chairman explained about the solid waste management like quantity of solid waste generation, collection, treatment and disposal in Dharwad, Karnataka. Also, explained about the

existing facilities and future plans on MSW management in Goa State. The Committee asked the State Board the status of water quality in the state and any studies/ monitoring been carried out to check the status of water quality in the lakes and rivers of Goa state. If any, asked the State Board to submit the copy of the report.

The Committee emphasized the MoEF&CC to take action against the Biodiversity department, Goa and issue a Show Case notice, since the Biodiversity department had not formed any Committee on Wetlands Act proposed in 2010 and immediate action to be taken to form a committee on wetlands act, 2010. The Committee also asked to amend the Forest act to change the definition of a Coconut tree. Finally, the Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee thanked the various Departments for the works carried out and further improvements and concluded the Session.

After the Lunch break, the Committee released the press note and summarized the proceedings as follows:

1. About 38,000 Crore Rupees will be dedicated to the CAMPA fund and the bill proposes a very comprehensive structure to ensure that the funds are used for regeneration of plantations and forests and in aid of all incidental objects that will revive our ecology.
2. The need to establish the facilities for Solid Waste Management and garbage disposal in Goa for 450 MT of Waste generated per day are the principle challenges.
3. Discussed about the effects of illegal mining on ecology and also on water resources particularly on ground water.
4. The Standing Committee has made recommendations to review the definition of tree as per the states Tree Preservation Act specifically in regard to the coconut tree.
5. The Committee directed the Central MoEF & CC officials to work in close coordination with the state authorities and to find ways and means to implement in letter and spirit all possible laws intended to protect the environment.

6. The Committee discussed about the single window clearances accorded by the State Investment Promotion Board where they felt that the requirements for those projects outside notified industrial areas to obtain all necessary clearances is mandatory.
7. Given that a large part of the States revenue comes from mining there is a need to find a practical solution to ensure that economic activity and protection of environment go hand in hand and that there is not a rapacious exploitation of the natural resources of Goa.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee said it was a useful meeting and found that the amount of effort required to protect the ecology are not there. And, a large gamut of issues were discussed over four and half to five hours which they hoped would lead to some positive action. The Committee said that the laws were to be made more effective and effectively enforced and found that the attitude of the State Govt. in principle is supportive and said that they would be closely monitoring the environmental preservation of the state. The Committee informed that the detailed report will be submitted to Govt. Of India

In the early evening the Parliamentary Standing Committee visited the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) at Vasco da Gama, Goa along with the Officials from MoEF&CC and CPCB. The Committee members visited various laboratory in the NCAOR and had a discussion with the Scientists. The Committee also had a conversation with Scientists located in Bharti Station, Antarctic through video conference and discussed various issues.