

**CALLING ATTENTION TABLED BY SHRI VIJAI SARDESSAI AND
SHRI CARLOS FERREIA, MLA TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/02/2024**

‘Fear and Anxiety in the minds of the people of Goa especially due to various forms of pollution, including air pollution, odour pollution, water pollution and solid hazardous waste. These are chronic issues in Cuncolim IDC and have been raised once again by the residents of Cuncolim in recent month. I call upon the Government to take steps to stop the pollution levels including setting up an ETP, installing live monitoring stations to measure pollution levels, setting up a branch of GSPCB at Cuncolim IDC and across the state and setting up a rapid response team to handle complaints of pollution's.’

**REPLY TO CALLING ATTENTION-REGARDING POLLUTION IN
CUNCOLIM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

The Cuncolim Industrial Estate mostly consists of Steel/ Metal industries having (Induction/Reheating furnaces) manufacturing Units, Fish Processing Units/ Fish Meal Units and IMFL/Distilleries and other Units. The inspections of the said units are carried out by the Board for grant of Consent to Operate/Establish, Complaints and Compliance Verification.

The Units at the Cuncolim Industrial Estate generating process Effluents have installed Effluent Treatment Plants. Further, the Induction furnaces have installed Air Pollution Control Devices (APCD) to control the stack emissions. One of the unit, M/s. John Distilleries located within IDC has installed Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) and the same is connected to the Board Server as it comes under one of the 17 red category of Industries who are compulsorily required to install Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station as per directives of Central Pollution Control Board. In Cuncolim Industrial Estate there is only one such red category industry .

The Board conducts Ambient Air Quality Monitoring under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) and water monitoring under the National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at the Cuncolim Industrial Estate. The Board also conducts inspections of the Industrial Units under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment Protection Act 1986.

The Board has also conducted ground water study through the Central Ground Water Board. As per the reports of the Central Ground Water Board all the parameters are within permissible limits.

The Board has recently conducted The Environmental Audits of the Major Units located in the Cuncolim Industrial Estate. Based on the findings of the audit

reports, the Board has directed the units to comply to the findings of the audit. The Board has issued closure directions to 10 units for operating without consent of the Board. Board also issued closure directions to one unit found discharging effluents outside the premises and on compliance revoked the closure directions.

The Board also conducted inspection of the canal based on complaint received for discharge. There was no industrial discharge observed however it was observed that there was discharge from the settlement near the canal. Complaint was forwarded to WRD and Cuncolim Municipal Council for necessary action.

The average Air Quality Index (AQI) based on PM10, PM2-5, So2 & NOX for the last financial year was predominantly SATISFACTORY (94%) and MODERATE (6%).

With respect to the hazardous waste dump of M/s. Sunrise Zinc at Cuncolim Industrial Estate, the Board covers the dump every year prior to monsoons at its own cost. The Board had invited Request for Proposal from M/s. Ponda Envirocare Ltd. which is an agency that is permitted to handle Common Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility for disposal at the designated site located at Pissurlem Industrial Estate. The estimated quote is Rs. 14,63,40500/- and we are examining the same.

I wish to place before this house that the Board is contemplating to carry out characterization analysis to ascertain the percentage of hazard and also to explore the possibilities if this so called hazardous waste could be put to other alternate use. This study is supposed to be carried out either through BITS Pilani, Goa or through Indian Institute of Sciences Bangalore and based on this findings the Board would take a call as to whether we should do the capping of the hazardous waste by transporting at the Common Harzardous Waste Treatment Facility at Pissurlem or if it could be put to other alternative use for betterment of the State.

The GSPCB has a dedicated Asst. Environmental Engineer for addressing the various issues which plague Cuncolim Industrial Estate who is pro - actively addressing the concerns of the inhabitants of Cuncolim.

So also the Goa IDC is exploring the possibilities to develop a common ETP for ensuring that there is no degradation of environment and the fish meal plants have installed bio-filters to arrest the emission of foul odour. Adequate directions would also be given to the Department of Transport to ensure that the vehicles carrying fish to the processing units are fully insulated and that they install holding tanks so that there is no spillage of water on the roads.

We are serious to ensure that there is no further environmental degradation.
