

Regarding need to undertake comprehensive measures to ensure ecological restoration of Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh-Laid

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (CHANDIGARH): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the matter of urgent public importance regarding the alarming degradation of Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh. At the time of its creation, Sukhna Lake had a substantial water-spread area and depth and was designed to function as a major rainwater reservoir, aiding groundwater recharge, flood control and ecological balance of the region. Over the years, however, the size, depth and water-holding capacity of the lake have reduced drastically due to unchecked siltation. Despite repeated warnings by experts, proper and scientific desilting of the lake has not been undertaken in a sustained manner over the decades. As a result, large portions of the lake have become shallow and prone to drying. Simultaneously, illegal construction and encroachments in the catchment area of the lake have increased significantly, obstructing natural drainage channels and accelerating silt inflow into the lake. Even the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also expressed serious concern regarding the deteriorating condition and shrinking water levels of Sukhna Lake. In this context, I urge the Government to take urgent, coordinated and time-bound action to remove illegal constructions, restore and secure the catchment area, carry out comprehensive desilting and implement long-term ecological restoration measures to protect this critical urban water body.