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MP for phosphorus ban in detergents to save lakes

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Frothing in the Bellandur lake.

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In the wake of increasing frothing in Bellandur lake, Member of Parliament (Bengaluru Central) P C Mohan has urged the Union government to ban the use of phosphorus in detergents, laundry bars and other cleaning agents.

The Lok Sabha member said that based on the letter he had written to Union Environment and Forest Minister Harsh Vardhan, the ministry and agencies have been directed to look into the issue.

Mohan said that this decision to seek a ban on the use of phosphorus was taken after consulting experts from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). "Varthur and Bellandur lakes are frothing and catching fire frequently. I have learnt that one of the reasons is phosphorus and so it needs to be banned," he said.

Experts' opinion

Experts had opined that the government has to act on the root cause of the problem. Phosphorus is present in cleaning agents, untreated waste is let into lakes which are already rich in nutrients for algae to bloom.

"All this leads to frothing, he mentioned in the letter. Studies have shown that it is not just these two water bodies, but even river Ganga and other lakes which are frothing due to phosphorous," the MP said.

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