

Minister warns industries lacking effluent treatment plants of action

KARACHI: Regretting lack of action on part of industries in installing on-site treatment plants despite orders of the Supreme-Court mandated water commission, the Sindh environment and climate change minister announced on Friday at an event that the government was left with no option but to issue closure notices to non-cooperating industries.

He was speaking at a programme held to conduct a beach-cleaning drive at Seaview to mark World Oceans' Day.

“It’s good that some people [industrialists] have started their work [on effluent treatment plants] but still there are a lot of industries, which are not cooperating with us and the government is left with no option but to issue closure notices to them [non-cooperating industries],” Environment and Climate Change Minister Mohammad Taimur Talpur said.

These notices could be issued to at least 100 industries in the next 10 to 20 days on their consistent failure to act upon the directives of the water commission to install an effluent treatment unit at their respective sites.

According to him, 85 per cent industries of Karachi didn’t act upon the directives of the commission and they defied all deadlines given for the purpose.

Highlighting government initiatives in this respect, Mr Talpur said that work was in progress to install combined effluent treatment plants at different industrial zones of Karachi with the federal government’s support.

He claimed that these combined effluent treatment plants would reduce 70 to 80pc environmental damage currently being done to the sea.

Plastic pollution

The minister also spoke about increasing plastic pollution and asserted that since he had assumed charge of environment department, instances of open municipal waste burning had been reduced to half in Karachi.

“The provincial government will soon declare district South in Karachi a plastic-free zone by imposing a complete ban on the use of polythene shopping bags,” he vowed, while conceding that an earlier decision of the cabinet to impose ban on the use of polythene bags in Sukkur district could not be properly implemented.

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter