GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1374
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9th FEBURARY, 2022

CONSERVING MARINE RESOURCES

1374.   SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is aware that there is an urgent need to preserve and conserve marine resources in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has any proposal to involve/ engage local communities to preserve and conserve marine resources;

(d)   if so, the details thereof;

(e)   whether the Government has made financial provision for conservation of marine life; and

(f)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
MINSTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a)   Yes, Sir.

(b)   Government of India has already undertaken several initiatives focusing on the conservation of coastal and marine resources especially, wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs and their management through implementation of law and continuous monitoring. Few examples are:

(i)   The Wild Life Protection Act of India (1972) provides legal protection to many marine animals. There are total of 31 major Marine Protected Areas in India covering coastal areas that have been notified under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

(ii) The National Committee on mangroves, wetlands and coral reefs constituted in 1993 advise the Government on relevant policies and programmes regarding marine species.

(iii) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification (1991 and later versions) prohibit developmental activities and disposal of wastes in the fragile coastal ecosystems.

(iv) The Biological Diversity Act of India,2002 and the Biological Diversity Rules 2004, and the guidelines thereof advise the Government on matters related to the protection and conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and equitable sharing of its components, Intellectual Property Rights, etc.

(v) The Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India is implementing a flagship scheme namely the PradhanMantriMatsyaSampadaYojana (PMMSY) for sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India. Two of the key objectives of the scheme are (a) harnessing of fisheries potential in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner and (b) Robust fisheries management and regulatory framework.

(vi) The Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), an attached office of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is mandated with the management strategies development for marine living resources through ecosystem monitoring and modelling activities. Based on 24 years of survey studies, it has generated an extensive knowledgebase on the biodiversity aspects within India's Exclusive Economic Zone including hotspots for conservation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Involvement of local communities is often seen as an integral part of preserving the marine resources. CMLRE is implementing a national R&D programme on Marine Living Resources (MLR) with an inbuilt component on Societal Services to support the fisher folks of Lakshadweep Islands. The societal services initiative intends to enhance the ornamental and baitfish stocks in the wild. Under the program, CMLRE has organised a series of hands on trainings on "Marine ornamental fish breeding and rearing at Lakshadweep Islands". In addition, under the PradhanMantriMatsyaSampadaYojana(PMMSY) scheme of Department of Fisheries, there are provisions for encouraging sustainable marine fisheries activities, development of fisheries management plans, development of Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages, promotion of Sagar Mitra, installation of bio-toilets in fishing vessels, communication and tracking devices, livelihood support during fish ban period to fisher families etc. for conservation of fisheries resources.

(e) and (f) During the period 2017-20, an allocation of Rs.84.00 Cr was made by Ministry of Earth Sciences for the implementation of MLR programme.

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