

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3578
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03RD APRIL 2017**

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

3578. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a threat of volcanic eruption in one of the oldest Volcanos in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of the happenings and/or possible happenings of the Volcanic eruption;
- (c) whether any serious/dangerous situation has arisen due to the evolving situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the precautionary steps taken by Government?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES, POWER, COAL AND
NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (d): The Barren Island volcano is the only active volcano of the Indian Sub-continent located in Andaman Sea at about 138 km east of Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The oldest recorded historical eruption of Barren Island volcano was in the year 1887. Intermittent activity has been recorded in the Barren Island volcano from 1991 onwards after remaining dormant for about 150 years. A team of scientists from National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) spotted/witnessed the eruption of Barren Island volcano in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 23rd and 26th January, 2017 and reported smoke and ejecta coming out from the volcano. The volcano erupted in small episodes of five to ten minutes. The eruption consisted of small ash emissions in both explosive and effusive manner along with small lava flows.

The Barren Island is uninhabited by human population and there are no civil structures. There is no dangerous situation arisen due to the eruption of Barren Island volcano.

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