

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2464**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

**Preservation of Horseshoe crabs**

2464. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has data regarding the change in the population of Horseshoe crabs in India over the last three decades;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government plans to place the Horseshoe crabs in the list of marine species for which a Species Recovery Plan has to be developed; and
- (d) the measures Government has taken for the preservation of the marine species that face survival threats due to unregulated fishing activities?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) The Zoological Survey of India has been conducting periodic studies on population status of many invertebrates including Horseshoe crabs. Such studies have indicated abundance of horseshoe crabs in river mouth regions of North Odisha coast and presence of the species in coastal sites covering West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- (c) & (d) The Indo-Pacific Horseshoe Crab (*Tachypleus gigas*) and mangrove Horseshoe Crab (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicaudatai*) are included in the Schedule-II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Presently, there is no proposal for inclusion of Horseshoe crabs for species recovery programme.

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