

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 380**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

**Protection of aquatic mammals**

380. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

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

- (a) whether nearly 10,000 aquatic mammals, like, whales and dolphins, get injured or killed by mechanical boats/fishing vessels every year across the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has issued any guidelines in this regard to conserve these species; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) It is estimated that between 9,000-10,000 cetaceans are bycaught annually across India in mechanized vessels.
- (b) and (c) The Ministry has released Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Management Guidelines in January, 2021. These guidelines provide guidance for the proper handling and rescue of marine megafauna stranded on the shore or entrapped in shallow waters, bays, and potentially unable to return to the sea. These guidelines provide for a participatory approach and recognises importance of the local communities in partnering for conservation initiatives.

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