

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2300
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Measures taken to protect bio-diversity and marine habitats

2300. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to protect bio-diversity and marine habitats in the country with particular reference to Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the effective measures taken by Government to curb the prevailing issues and problems pertaining to protection and conservation of bio-diversity and marine habitats in the country; and
- (d) whether Government has signed any agreements with foreign countries and international organisations dealing with environment and climate change?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) The Government of India has undertaken several initiatives for protection and conservation of biodiversity and marine habitats, particularly in Tamil Nadu, through various national missions and programs. These initiatives include the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Coastal Mission, Green India Mission, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems, Amrit Dharohar, Water Resources programme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies, Nagar Van Yojana, Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management, and Project Dolphin. Additionally, the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat and the Endangered Species Recovery Program prioritize the protection of rare marine species, including turtles, humpback whales, and dugongs.

The Government of Tamil Nadu established a programme called as, TN-SHORE (Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy) which focuses on restoring coastal biodiversity, protecting livelihoods, and reducing pollution. The program also includes the creation of "*The Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency*" to oversee the restoration of coastal ecosystems.

The Tamil Nadu Government has established the Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund to protect endangered and critically endangered species. The Tamil Nadu Government established a Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay to protect the endangered dugong species and its marine habitats. The Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission focuses on restoring degraded coastal ecosystems to enhance biodiversity, protect the coastline, and improve livelihoods.

To strengthen conservation efforts, the Government of India has enacted key legislations such as the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Additionally, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) has taken proactive measures to conserve ecologically sensitive areas.

- (d) India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement. India is also a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Migratory Species and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Additionally, India has signed the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement for conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the areas beyond national jurisdiction.
