

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1334
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Turtle Trails and Olive Ridley Conservation in Andhra Pradesh

1334. SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering exploring the potential of “Turtle Trails” along the Andhra Pradesh coastline, including nesting stretches in Nellore district and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry proposes to consult and collaborate with the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, given its existing Olive Ridley turtle hatchery and conservation programmes in Nellore and other coastal districts, while designing any such Turtle Trails initiative; and
- (c) the safeguards being planned to ensure that any such eco-tourism initiative does not disturb nesting sites and hatchling survival?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The management of wildlife and its habitat including management of eco-tourism is undertaken by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration, in accordance with the approved Management Plan/Working Plan/Tiger Conservation Plan, as applicable. Projects of such nature are considered based on proposals received from the State, which has not been received from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Marine turtles, including Olive Ridley Turtle, are included under the species recovery programme for critically endangered species component, of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitats, wherein financial assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories for protection, conservation and management of such identified species, based on the Annual Plan of Operation submitted by them.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued Guidelines for Sustainable Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas-2021. These guidelines prescribe safeguards which, *inter-alia*, include for science based planning and carrying-capacity analysis based on description of the eco-tourism site, time, duration, route, mode of travel, besides number of persons visiting. The guidelines prescribe demarcating ecotourism zones based on the species’ ecological requirements, to ensure integrity of such wilderness areas.
