

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.: 1933
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.12.2017

Plastic Debris along Coasts

1933: SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ockhi Cyclone resulted in agglomeration of plastic debris along coasts and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any data about the quantum of plastic debris accumulated on coasts and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the Government has any emergency plan to tackle the issue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether sea animals have also been affected as a result thereof and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a), (b) & C: Yes, Madam. The Ockhi Cyclone resulted in agglomeration of plastic debris along the coasts of Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Gujarat etc., particularly along the major Beaches of Mumbai. It has been estimated that about 80 tonnes of waste from the Ocean has been dumped on the city's coastline due to Ockhi Cyclone. The impact in other coastal States was relatively less compared to Maharashtra. Clearance of such accumulated plastic debris is being managed by the respective State Governments/Union Territories.

(d): Cyclone Ockhi has affected the marine biodiversity especially in the Islands of Lakshadweep. Due to intense wave activity, a number of coral associated organisms such as sea cucumber, starfishes, stone fishes, puffer fishes, seaweeds, seagrass were found dead along the coast. Extensive damage to the mussel beds were also recorded along rocky coastal stretches of Kerala. Government has initiated various measures for conservation and management of Marine Biodiversity such as; demarcation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), prevention of untreated effluent discharge and solid waste particularly plastics etc. into the sea waters.
