

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTIONNO. 1875
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

Wastes Accumulated in Indian Ocean Region

1875. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to clean up the plastics and other related wastes accumulated in the Indian Ocean Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the effective measures taken by the Government to prevent trans-boundary movement of marine plastics and micro plastics;
- (d) the policies adopted and actions taken by the Government to protect marine recycling methods of wastes dumped in Indian Ocean Region; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) The Indian ocean is surrounded in the west by countries of Africa and the Middle East, from Madagascar upto Iran and to the north of the Indian Ocean are the countries of southern Asia and southeast Asia including India and Australia to the east. Cleanup of plastics and other wastes in the Indian Ocean region involves concerted effort by all countries in the region. Goal No.14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agreed under Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly requires member countries including India to address marine issues including marine litter.

The Government of India has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 aimed at sound management of plastic wastes. The extant rules mandate the waste generators to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, its littering, segregation and storage at source and handing over to local bodies or its authorized agencies. India is a member country of the MARPOL Convention which covers prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. India is also a member of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) which is

developing a data base for marine litter, including marine plastics and micro plastics and control of transboundary movement of marine litter including marine plastics. The Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with SACEP, UNEP, SAS, and Indian Coast Guard also conducted the 'International Coastal Cleanup Day' in various parts of India with the objective of educating the public and create awareness on the need for a clean and healthy coast.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change also conducted extensive coastal cleanup campaign in June 2018, in association with coastal states and Union territory administrations, and the Indian Coast Guard.

(d) & (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change have not formulated any policy on marine recycling methods of wastes dumped in the Indian Ocean Region.
