

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2063**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

**Destruction of Coral Reefs**

2063. DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of the rising sea temperature caused by climate change which killed several corals and destroyed coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar and Konkan Coast during the years 2014-2017 as per the recent underwater survey conducted by Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), Tuticorin;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to save the remaining corals in the Gulf of Mannar and Konkan Coast;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b) The Government is aware of impact of rising sea temperature on corals. As per reports of Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), in Malvan (Maharashtra), about 85% corals were bleached and out of the total bleached corals, 8% live corals were dead and others recovered in 2015. In Gulf of Mannar, over 24% corals were bleached and out of the total bleached corals, about 16% live corals were dead in 2016.

(c) to (e) A Coral Bleaching Alert System has been operationalised by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled “Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs” at four sites namely Lakshadweep, Gulf of Kachchh, Gulf of Mannar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for restoration, monitoring, conservation and management of coral reefs. Some projects have been implemented in Gulf of Mannar and Sindhudurg coast focusing on rehabilitation of coral communities and setting up of artificial reefs. Some species of Corals have been provided legal protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The coral reef areas are declared as ecologically sensitive under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and the Island Protection Zone Notification, 2011.

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