

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 345
ANSWERED ON- 21/07/2023

MARINE BIOLOGICAL BIODIVERSITY UNDER UN

345. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK

SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether any agreement has been made for conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity occurring in the high sea under the United Nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether an agreement is intended to address gaps in the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) The Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), was adopted on 19th June 2023 by the UN Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) held at New York.

The primary intent and objective of the Agreement is conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the areas beyond national jurisdiction.

(c & d) The Agreement is intended to address gaps in the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including the lack of a comprehensive regime for the conservation and sustainable use of marine genetic resources, as well as the need for more effective mechanisms for marine protected areas and environmental impact assessments.

The Agreement is a significant step forward in the codification of the Law of the Sea, and brings vast areas of seas under the jurisdiction of an international legal regime.
