

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 313**  
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

**Sustainable Development of Marine Biosphere  
Reserve Areas**

313. SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to develop Marine Biosphere Reserve Areas for sustainable development in the state of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps towards sustainable development and conservation of forests of nearby seashore areas in the state of Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b) The Central Government has notified the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu on 04<sup>th</sup> April, 1989 with the broad objective of conservation of representative samples of ecosystem, provision of long term conservation of genetic diversity in-situ, promotion of basic and applied research work and its monitoring and dissemination of experience for education and training. This Biosphere Reserve represents the unique marine ecosystem. It has an arc of about 21 islands. The group of islands starting from Pamban, extends as an arc till Tuticorin running along the main coastline.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has established the National Coastal Mission Programme for conservation and management of Mangroves with the objective of their protection, sustenance, conservation and augmentation in the country through regulatory and promotional measures. The Ministry has also launched Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Income (MISHTI) Programme on 05<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Operational guidelines for MISHTI has been prepared and the same has been shared with the coastal States including Tamil Nadu. In addition, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the “Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission” with the objective of preventing sea erosion, reducing marine pollution and conserving marine biodiversity. The project objectives are envisaged to be achieved through five identified thematic investment areas which includes ‘Coastal Protection’, with focus on establishing a comprehensive coastal protection strategy including mangrove and sea grass plantation and restoration, coral reef restoration, all directed towards effectively mitigating erosion concerns along the entire coastline.

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