

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 360**  
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

**Turtle Conservation Centre**

360. SHRI RAMALINGAM S.:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to establish Turtle Conservation Centre in Mayiladuthurai and Nagapattinam, Srikazhi, Vedaranyam Range due to predominant increase in annual nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether the Government has taken any concrete steps/programmes/awareness/rehabilitation centres to address climate change issues such as cyclones, higher rainfall, landslides in sea shores villages including Tharangambadi, Poompuhar, Thoduvai, Thirumullaivasal, Keelumoovarkara, Nadhalpadugai, MudhalaimeduThittu, Mathirvelu, Kodyampalayam, Vellamanal, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) Whether the Government has taken any initiatives/activities/programmes to increase sustainable mangrove plantations in the Tamil Nadu specifically in Pichavaram Mangrove Forest, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) As per the information received from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the works for the establishment of a Sea Turtle Conservation Centre in Nagapattinam including designing and preparation of Detailed Project Report have been initiated by the State Government.
- (b) As informed by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, District Climate Change Mission has been formed in Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai which organizes conferences and awareness programmes at district levels. It has also been informed that, during last year, a total of 30000 Casuarina seedlings have been planted along sea shore to create bio-shield. Dribbling of around 40000 Palmyrah nuts has also been done under the Rehabilitation of Coastal Habitats Scheme.

- (c) The Government of India has launched the MISHTI Programme (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) in order to protect and enhance the mangrove cover in coastal States and UTs. The MISHTI programme envisages restoration and reforestation of mangroves covering approximately 540 km<sup>2</sup>, spread across 9 coastal States, including Tamil Nadu and 3 Union Territories for a period of five years commencing 2023-24 onwards.

As informed by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, initiatives have been taken to restore and increase the mangrove plantation in and around the Pichavaram Mangrove Forest, which include:

- i) Modified fish bone planting in 25 hectares by using 27500 propagules in Kudikadu village near Cuddalore during 2023-24.
- ii) Restoration of 100 hectares' mangrove plantation in Killai Reserve Forest by using 55000 propagules during 2023-24.
- iii) Linear planting of mangrove in 10 hectares by using 10000 saplings in Killai Reserve Forest during 2023-24.
- iv) Chain link fencing for 250 hectares' mangroves plantation area has been completed to protect the mangrove area from feral cattle population and other offences during 2023-24.
- v) Nursery development for 2,55,000 mangrove sapling has been done in Killai Reserve Forest during 2023-24.

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