

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2991**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019

**Campaign to Protect Whale Sharks**

2991. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched any campaign in Lakshadweep in order to protect endangered whale sharks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has been able to rescue these endangered animals by spreading awareness through these campaigns; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

- (a) and (b) The Government has not launched any campaign in Lakshadweep specifically for whale sharks. However, fund has been provided to Lakshadweep for the conservation of a project “Marine Dolphins (all marine mammals) of Lakshadweep waters” under the component ‘Recovery programme for saving critically endangered species’ under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Development of Wildlife Habitat’.
- (c) and (d) As per information received from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), WTI in partnership with Gujarat Forest Department started the mass awareness campaign in Gujarat to save whale sharks during 2004 with an aim of stopping the killing of whale sharks. Since 2004 till date, 745 whale sharks have been rescued and released by fishermen of Gujarat. Similar campaign has also been initiated by WTI in Kerala and Lakshadweep.

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