

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2611**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020**

**Mitigating Marine Plastic Litter**

2611. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with Norway to work jointly towards mitigating marine plastic litter and microplastics within the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds estimated under this agreement; and
- (c) the details of targets set including the number of States likely to be covered under the agreement?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing the India-Norway ocean dialogue and the joint task force on blue economy was signed by the Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway on 08 January 2019. The parties emphasized the potential of the blue economy to safeguard ocean health through sustainable development of its resources. The cooperative areas of mutual interest include (i) Ocean energy and Technology; (ii) Marine Biotechnology; (iii) Combating Marine Plastic Litter and Micro Plastic; (iv) Bilateral exchange programs on environmental management and capacity building; (v) Ocean Research and Services etc.

Pursuant to the MoU, a Letter of Intent was signed between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway on 11th February 2019, establishing the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative for a period of three years starting from 2019. The Government of Norway shall spend an estimated amount of Rs. 84.75 crores under this initiative on the development programme to combat marine litter and microplastics from 2019 to 2022.

(c) The Initiative shall focus on reducing marine litter from land-based activities including marine pollution and other pollutants as well as ensuring more sustainable management of plastic waste. The States likely to be covered under this initiative are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat.

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