

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2615
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Protection of Coral Reefs

2615. DR. SUBHAS SARKAR:

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken to protect coral reefs in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the black and white corals are being harvested for jewellery making in Gulf of Kutch and Andaman and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether laws regulating gathering of corals are being properly implemented and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the rampant use of plastics in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, despite a ban and if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard; and
- (e) whether a National Coral Reef Institute has been established to facilitate research on Coral Reefs and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (c) The Government has taken steps to protect and sustain coral reefs in the country through promotional as well as regulatory measures. The promotional measures have been implemented through a Central Sector Scheme under National Coastal Mission Programme of the Ministry at four sites namely Lakshadweep, Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for restoration, monitoring, conservation and management of coral reefs.

Regulatory measures are implemented through Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (2019) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these acts as amended from time to time.

All the hard corals i.e. Scleractinian coral species are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and listed in Schedule-I category which prevents collection of live and dead corals. In addition, major coral reefs areas in the country have been declared as Protected Areas.

(b) No corals are collected from the country for jewellery making. And, no such incidence of harvesting and trade of black and white corals for jewellery making or any other purpose are reported from the territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Gulf of Kutch.

(d) The Andaman and Nicobar Pollution Control Committee (ANPCC) under the Department of Science & Technology, Andaman and Nicobar Administration is effectively implementing the ban on uses of single use plastic in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Carriage and use of plastic in forest and protected areas are strictly prohibited and is regulated effectively by the frontline staff of the Department of Environment and Forests of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

(e) National Coral Reef Research Institute is functioning in the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, since 2002 in project mode. Presently, only Andaman and Nicobar Administration allotted 2.0 acres of land near Port Blair to ZSI in free of cost to construct the building and other amenities for the institute.
