

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3259
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2020

Mangrove Forests

3259. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to protect mangrove forests in various regions of the country, and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there has been an increase or decrease in the density of such mangrove forests in past two years, and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to redress the same;
- (c) whether the Government is collaborating with foreign specialists, environmental bodies and NGOs to rejuvenate the mangrove forests and, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set any target or deadline to complete such rejuvenation projects, and if so, the steps taken to achieve the same; and
- (e) whether the Government is collaborating with various State Governments for protection of mangrove forests and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) & (e) The Government has been taking steps to protect and enhance mangrove forests in the country through promotional as well as regulatory measures. The promotional measures are being implemented through a Central Sector Scheme under National Coastal Mission Programme on conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs. Under this programme, annual Management Action Plan (MAP) for conservation and management of mangroves are formulated and implemented in all the coastal States and Union Territories.

Regulatory measures are implemented through Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (2019) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these acts as amended from time to time.

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) assessed Mangrove Cover of the country in three density classes i.e. very Dense, Moderately Dense and Open Mangrove Cover on biennial basis and publishes the findings in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As

per the ISFR 2019, the mangrove cover in the country has increased by 54 sq. km. in year 2019 as compared to the mangrove cover assessed in year 2017.

(c) & (d) The Ministry piloted the World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project in identified coastal stretches of the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat; Gopalpur -Chilika and Dhamra- Pradeep, in Odisha; and Digha-Shankarpur & Sagar Island in West Bengal with a purpose of protecting and conserving coastal and marine environment and sustainable development of these areas.

The ICZM Project having two components namely National Component and State Component. The State components are being implemented by three partner State Governments. The conservation and protection of coastal resources is one of the major sub-components of the ICZM Project, under which plantation of mangrove is one major activity under State components of the project.
