

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2817
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

Protection of Gian Leatherback Nesting Site

2817. PROF. SAUGATA RAY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to preserve the crucial Gian Leatherback nesting site of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of adverse effects to the said species on account of other developmental projects currently underway in Andaman;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The important steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of nesting sites of sea turtles, including Giant Leatherback Turtle, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are as follows:
 - i. The Ministry has released National Marine Turtle Action Plan (2021-2026) for protection, conservation and rehabilitation of marine turtle habitats in the country including Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - ii. Nesting sites of sea turtles are cleaned prior to commencement of nesting season for making them conducive for nesting.
 - iii. During nesting season, temporary camps are established and round the clock protection is provided to the sea turtles visiting the beaches for nesting at all important nesting sites.
 - iv. The egg clutches which are laid in areas vulnerable to damage due to climate/predation are transferred to artificial hatcheries maintained at important beaches by the Forest Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) to (e) All turtle nesting areas in Andaman and Nicobar Islands fall under the regulatory regime of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019 and Island Protection Zone Notification, 2019. The Ministry has requested the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration to prepare and implement a comprehensive management plan for conservation and protection of Leatherback Turtles in Great Nicobar Islands along with the Wildlife Institute of India and the project proponents.
