

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
LOKSABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3138  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2021**

**MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING**

**3138. SHRI D.M. KATHIRANAND:  
SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:  
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:  
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:**

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is undertaking marine spatial planning;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) the details of the geographical locations identified for the purpose;
- (d) whether India is considering for foreign assistance/collaboration for the same;
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
AND EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Ministry of Earth Sciences has initiated the Marine Spatial Planning process for two pilot sites namely Puducherry and Lakshadweep islands for integrated ocean resources management and for undertaking development works in a sustainable manner.
- (c) Puducherry is an urban area with specific environmental and economic setting with industries, fisheries and tourism being important sectors whereas Lakshadweep is a pristine ecologically sensitive area with high potential for tourism and fisheries.
- (d) Yes, Sir. The marine spatial planning framework is being evolved in collaboration with Norway.
- (e) India and Norway signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing the India - Norway 'Ocean Dialogue' in January 2019. Under this MoU, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences agreed to extend the cooperation by establishing the Norway-India "Integrated Ocean Initiative" for a period of five years. The Norwegian Environment Agency and the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), an attached office of MoES were given the mandate to develop a draft framework for the Integrated Ocean Initiative.

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