

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4443
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2022**

UN CLEAN SEAS PROGRAMME

4443. SHRI JAYANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed objectives that India seeks to achieve through the United Nations Clean Seas Programme;
- (b) whether the Ministry has undertaken any research/policy measures to achieve such objectives and if so, the details thereof; and;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to study the level and nature of marine litter in the country and 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) The objectives of the UN Clean Seas programme are;
 - (i) An urgent and concerted action against marine litter and plastic pollution by setting up a National marine litter action plan to quantify the total marine litter footprint in Indian coastal waters and to reduce the flow of plastics into the ocean.
 - (ii) Creating awareness to the public on marine litter and plastic pollution.
- (b) Yes, Sir. National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), an attached office of MoES is undertaking research activities in quantifying litter in the beaches (macro, meso, & microplastics) and microplastics in the coastal water, sediment, and different biota including commercial fishes, bivalves, and crustacea. Data on the level of micro-plastic pollution was generated for the east coast of India and the west coast is proposed to be assessed shortly. A National level workshop was conducted with the participants from various research institutes, stakeholders, and policymakers, industrial and academic experts to prepare a roadmap for formulating the National Marine litter Policy.
- (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Pan-India coastal monitoring, beach clean-up activities are being undertaken by NCCR, Chennai at regular intervals at various beaches of India, to assess the marine litter from 2018-2021 and it was found that more than 50% composition was contributed by single use plastics. The Beach litter survey has further revealed that the maximum litter accumulation occurs in the backshore than in the intertidal zone. Moreover, urban beaches have higher accumulation rates than the rural beaches. Samples from coastal water, sediment, beach, and biota are analyzed for micro/ meso/ macro plastics pollution. An increase in the abundance of microplastics is observed along the east coast of India, during the monsoon. The stations nearer to the river mouth had higher numbers of microplastic concentrations.
