

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 188
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

Conservation Efforts in Kendrapara, Odisha

*188. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to conserve the Bhitarkanika National Park and its unique ecosystem in Kendrapara in the State of Odisha, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government has allocated any funds for conservation projects in Kendrapara in the State of Odisha, particularly for mangrove conservation, if so, the details thereof;

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *188 REGARDING “CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN KENDRAPARA, ODISHA” BY SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA DUE FOR REPLY ON 09.12.2024.

(a) and (b) The important steps taken for conservation, protection and management of wild life in the Bhitarkanika National Park include:

- i. An area of 145 sq. kms which includes forest lands, rivers, creeks, estuary and backwaters has been declared as Bhitarkanika National Park in 1998 under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. As per the provisions of the Act,
 - a. Hunting inside the National Park and altering its boundaries are punishable with imprisonment for a minimum term of three years and may extend to seven years and also with a fine not be less than twenty-five thousand rupees.
 - b. The boundaries of the National Park cannot be altered by the State Government without recommendation of the National Board for Wild Life.
 - c. Destruction, exploitation or removal of any Wild Life including forest produce from the National Park and diversion, stopping or enhancing the flow of water into or outside the National Park is not allowed, except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wild Life Warden with approval of the State Government upon recommendation of the National Board of Wild Life.
- ii. Bhitarkanika National Park has been declared as a Ramsar site in 2002.
- iii. As informed by the State of Odisha, the detail of funds allocated under different schemes/projects from FY 2020-21 to 2024-25 for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitat including for mangrove conservation in Kendrapara, Odisha is as follows:

Sl	Name of the Scheme/Project	Amount (in Rs. Lakhs)
1	CSS-Development of Wildlife Habitats	512.13
2	CSS-Conservation and Management of Mangroves	487.87
3	Eco-system restoration and Mangrove Plantation along with livelihood activities under ‘Enhancing Climate Resilience of India’s Coastal Communities (ECRICC) project’	1643.63

- iv. Further, the Government of India has launched the “Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes” (MISHTI) programme to restore and promote mangroves as unique, natural eco-system and for preserving and enhancing the sustainability of the coastal habitats in 2023. An amount of Rs. 70.27 lakhs has been

released to the state of Odisha for undertaking activities under the programme in the 4 identified districts including Kendrapara.

- v. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about illegal wildlife trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve interstate and trans boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
