

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2800
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 2023

DEEP SEA BIO-DIVERSITY

2800. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Deep Ocean Mission is directed towards capacity development in Marine Biology for providing job opportunities in the marine sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the project-wise details of different ocean development projects being implemented in the country till date;
- (d) the details of funds allocated by the Government for ocean development projects during each of the last three years; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government for Deep Ocean survey exploration and projects for the conservation of deep sea bio-diversity in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) & (b) Deep Ocean Mission is directed towards capacity development and enterprise in Marine Biology component by integrating the ongoing advanced basic and applied research in marine biology, marine ecology and related marine engineering through national and international collaboration in education, research and excellence in the field of ocean science and technology. It aims to translate research into industrial application and product development through on-site business incubator facilities to provide job opportunities in the Marine sector in the country.
- (c) Details of projects undertaken in the Deep Ocean Mission are:-
 - i. Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining Manned Submersible and Underwater Robotics
 - ii. Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services
 - iii. Technological Innovations for Exploration and Conservation of Deep-Sea Biodiversity
 - iv. Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration
 - v. Energy and Fresh water from the Ocean
 - vi. Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology

- (d) Details of fund allocated under the Deep Ocean Mission during last three years are:-

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2021- 22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| Rs 150 Cr | Rs 400 Cr | Rs 450 Cr |

- (e) Documentation and mapping of marine biodiversity is a primary factor for their conservation. Towards this, the Ministry through Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) has undertaken a survey recently at a deep Seamount in the Indian EEZ through in situ data collection onboard its research vessel to document its biodiversity. This together with similar studies from few more deep seamounts will help in conserving these ecosystems.
