

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:592
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
DESTRUCTION TO MANGROVES IN ORISSA .
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inhabitants of villages located in and around the Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara District of Orissa had destroyed the mangroves to expand agriculture and to take up pisciculture in this area as reported in the `Economic Times` dated January 6, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save the mangroves which protect these villages from the Cyclone?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) As per the information received from Government of Orissa, about 400 villages are located around Bhitarkanika National Park and Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. Increasing demand on land for agriculture and non-agriculture use has resulted into heavy biotic pressure and exploitation of mangrove forests in these areas.

(b) Bhitarkanika had been declared as a Sanctuary in 1975 and National Park in 1998. Financial assistance is extended by Government of India to the State Government for Conservation and Management of Mangroves in Bhitarkanika to cover plantation, regeneration and protection of mangroves in degraded mangrove areas. Patrolling has been intensified in and around the Bhitarkanika National Park and ecodevelopment activities are encouraged so as to reduce pressure on mangroves. Under the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, and the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of Orissa, Mangrove areas in the State are categorized as CRZ-I under which agriculture, pisciculture and construction activities are prohibited.