

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:101  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007  
PROTECTION OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES  
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Oram Shri Jual

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to protect and promote the population of Olive Ridley sea turtles in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any breeding ground is proposed to be developed on shore and off shore of Bay of Bengal and Indian ocean;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Olive Ridley sea turtles coming to Indian water territories from the pacific ocean are faced with any threat; and
- (f) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) & (b) Olive Ridley Turtles ( *Lepidochelys olivaceai*) has been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording them the highest degree of protection.
- (c) There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) & (f) The major off-shore threats faced by the Olive Ridley turtles include trawling by mechanized boats as by-catches, high intensity disturbances due to oil explorations in high seas, etc. Further, major threats on land include predation of eggs by jackals, dogs and other carnivores and also human interference. Measures taken to protect the Olive Ridley Turtles are as follows:
- i) The main nesting grounds of Olive Ridley Turtles have been declared as Protected Areas under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - ii) Fishermen have been advised to use Turtle Excluding Devise (TED) during trawling and to avoid trawling during nesting seasons.
  - iii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that are used for committing wildlife offences.
  - iv) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for protection of wildlife and their habitats under various Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
  - v) Regular patrolling in the sea is carried out by Wildlife Department in collaboration with the State Fisheries Department and Indian Coast Guard.
  - vi) The field staff have been alerted to be on the look for any poaching activity in their jurisdiction.
  - vii) Wide publicity is given on provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 against poaching.
  - viii) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication system.