

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1737
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
PROTECTION OF SEA- BASED BIO -DIVERSITY
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken measures to safeguard the sea-based bio-diversity; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Protection of sea-based bio-diversity is covered under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended subsequently. Several important marine species are listed in Schedule-I, II & IV of the said Act and 5 marine national parks, namely, Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park (Gujarat); Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park (Andaman & Nicobar Islands); Rani Jhansi National Park (Andaman & Nicobar Islands); Bhitarkanika National Park (Orissa); and Gulf of Mannar National Park (Tamil Nadu) have been notified. The Government has also enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 which primarily aim at regulating access to our biological resources, including sea-based bioresources & associated traditional knowledge, so as to ensure sharing of benefits arising out of their use. Further, the Government has issued Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 for conservation & protection of the coastal environment.