

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:471
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
CONSERVATION/PROTECTION OF SUNDERBANS
Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

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

- (a) whether there is any threat to Sunderbans from climate change;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India and Bangladesh have jointly formulated any scheme for the conservation and protection of Sunderbans;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by the Government for the conservation and protection of mangrove forests in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid at the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 471 BY SHRI RUDRA MADHAB RAY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH: TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.4.2010

(a)to(e) The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its Fourth Assessment Report released in 2007, reported that the mega deltas of Asia are vulnerable to climate change. Sea-level rise could increase the frequency and level of inundation of mega deltas due to storm surges and floods from river drainage putting communities, biodiversity and infrastructure at risk. However, the Report makes no specific reference to the direct threat to Sunderbans.

There is no proposal under consideration to launch a joint programme with Bangladesh to save and protect Sunderbans. However, the government makes efforts for conservation and development of mangroves, wetland and tiger in Sunderbans through centrally sponsored schemes. Through these schemes the issues relating to mangrove vegetation, tiger population and the socio-economic condition and welfare of the population in Sunderbans are addressed.

The Government also takes steps for conservation and management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in the country through regulatory and promotional measures. Government has recognized the mangroves and coral reefs as ecologically sensitive areas under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (1991), and identified 38 mangrove areas in the country for intensive conservation and management. Government has released a sum of Rs. 13.07 crores during 2008-09 to 2009-10 including Rs.334.64 lakhs to Govt. of West Bengal during 2008-10 to various coastal States/Union Territories for conservation & management of mangroves.