

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:578

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

SUBMERGENCE OF ISLANDS

Antony Shri Anto; Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several islands in Bay of Bengal have either completely submerged or are likely to submerge due to the rising sea level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the islands which have either been submerged or are at the risk to get submerged;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) – (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 578 FOR ANSWER ON 5TH MAY, 2010

(a)–(b) Three islands namely Lohachara, Suparibhanga and New Moore Island/South Talpatti Island of the Sundarbans have eroded due to dynamic deltaic subsidence but not been submerged due to rising sea level. Loss of land erosion through bank erosion due to action of waves and storm surges is more pronounced in the islands of Sundarbans. The Andaman and Nicobar islands have steeper slopes and hence danger from the inundation due to sea level rise is small.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) Studies on shoreline changes around the Sundarbans delta using satellite images and topo sheets have indicated significant erosion of many islands viz. Ghoramara, Jambudwip, Frasergunj, Bulchery, Dalhousie, Bhangadhuni. Degradation of the Sundarbans is dominated by the destruction of mangroves, erosion-accretion, problems regarding the mixture of fresh and salt water due to sedimentation in the creek and frequent tidal floods, although erosion across the islands of the Sundarbans is more dominant than the accretion. These islands may again show up intermittently if the accretionary processes predominate in future.

(e) Under a major initiative of Ministry of Environment and Forests, a National Institute for Mangrove Research is being planned in the Sunderbans area to provide a scientific approach in preserving the mangroves that needed to be evaluated in reducing the vulnerability of sea-facing inhabited islands, besides construction of bridges to provide for evacuation in case of sea level rise situation or Aila-like cyclones in the future.