

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1776
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
STUDY ON MANGROVES ECOLOGY
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a detailed environment study on the problems of mangrove ecologies along the coast of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the existing mangrove parks and mangrove cultivation areas promoted by the Government and NGOs;
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaints on such parks; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Environment and Forests through the Indo-Canada Environment Facility had supported the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) to conduct detailed studies on problems of ecology of mangrove wetlands of the country in partnership with the concerned State Forest departments. Apart from the MSSRF, grant-in-aid in research projects have been sanctioned to various research institutions, universities and NGOs on various problems of ecology and biology of mangrove ecosystems. The results of these studies have been published in the form of Mangrove Atlases for Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh; Manuals; Field Guides; Books and several peer-reviewed research papers in national and international journals. The Ministry has established an Environment Information System (ENVIS) database at Annamalai University for collection, collation and dissemination of scientific information pertaining to coastal ecosystems with special attention to mangrove ecology.

(c)to(e): The Ministry of Environment & Forests has identified 38 sites in the country as appropriate for planting/cultivation of mangroves, and their conservation and management. The State-wise list is given in the Annexure. Not all coastal areas are suitable for mangrove cultivation as mangroves require an appropriate mixture of saline & freshwater, and soft substrate like mudflats to be able to grow and perpetuate. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conservation & Management of Mangroves, 100% central assistance is extended to Coastal States and Union Territories for implementation of their approved Management Action Plans in the identified sites for components such as Survey and Demarcation, Planting, Restoration and Regeneration of Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, and Education & Awareness etc. During last three years (from 2007-08 to 2009-10), an amount of approximately Rs. 18.00 crores were released to various Coastal States for conservation, regeneration and management of mangroves.

According to Conservation Action Trust (CAT) – a Mumbai based NGO - there are two mangrove theme parks proposed by CAT in partnership with the Maharashtra Forest Department. One Mangrove Park is located at Bhandup in Mumbai, and the second is located off Palm Beach Road at Navi Mumbai. The land that is being utilized for these Parks is Protected Forest in the possession of the Maharashtra Forest Department. The activities proposed at these two locations are education, research and conservation.

Further, as per the information received from Government of Kerala, the State Government, based on the Directions issued by the Ministry under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has ordered closure of the Mangrove Theme Park, near Pappinisseri Panchayath Office, P.O. Pappinisseri, Kannur, Kerala.