

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2870  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011  
DECLINE IN OCEAN HEALTH  
Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is impending danger of mass extinction of marine life due to deterioration of world's oceans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cumulative effect of several stress factors such as global warming, degrading coral reefs, ocean acidification and destructive human activities like over fishing and widespread chemical pollution has resulted in declining ocean health;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken in this regard;
- (e) whether there is a need for greater inter-governmental cooperation to evolve policies for combined ocean and marine resource management; and
- (f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

- a) No Madam.
- b) Does not arise.
- c) No Madam No such manifestation is noticed yet.
- d) Despite of the above, on research mode observational campaigns are organized for collection and analysis of samples.
- e) No Madam.
- f) India is already a member of the Biodiversity Convention which is a comprehensive in its goals, and deals with an issue so vital to humanity's future, that it stands as a landmark in international law. It recognizes for the first time that the conservation of biological diversity is 'a common concern of humankind' and is an integral part of the development process. The agreement covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources. Further, Inter-governmental programmes such as "Ocean Bio-geographic Information System (OBIS)" and "Census of Marine Life (CoML)", where India is an active member, aims to document the distribution and abundance of marine biota in the world oceans and establish their identity through genetic sequencing. Such international efforts will help to identify and quantify the changes of species in world oceans. Similarly, India is a member of the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which is also an Inter-governmental effort to protect and conserve the marine living resources in the Southern Ocean.