

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:538

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

PROTECTION OF MANGROVES

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarama Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has any specific plan to protect the mangroves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether some foreign countries including China have expressed to share the Indian experience in protecting the mangroves; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (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 Q. No. 538 scheduled for answer on 14.05.2012 regarding 'Protection of Mangroves'

(a), (b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Government seeks to protect, sustain and augment mangroves in the country by both regulatory and promotional measures. Under the regulatory measures, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (2011) recognizes the mangrove areas as ecologically sensitive and categorizes them as CRZ-I which implies that these areas are afforded protection of the highest order. As per para 8

(v)(4)(a) of the notification, Critical Vulnerable Coastal Area (CVCA), which includes Sundarbans and other identified ecologically sensitive areas shall be managed with the involvement of the local coastal communities including the fisherfolk. Destruction of mangroves, for activities other than those specified in the Notification, is prohibited and attracts punitive action under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Under the promotional measures the Ministry has a centrally sponsored scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves in the country. Under the Scheme, on a nation-wide basis, 38 sites have been identified as appropriate for planting of mangroves and their conservation and management. 100% central assistance is extended to coastal States/Union Territories, who so request, for implementation of their approved Management Action Plans which comprise components such as Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation and Restoration of Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, Education and Awareness etc. During the last three years, the Ministry has provided financial assistance to Coastal States/Union Territories to the tune of Rs.21.30 crores for the conservation and management of mangroves. Further, under the World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project, an amount of Rs.24.00 crore has been allotted to delineate coastal ecologically sensitive areas, including mangroves. To restore, regenerate and for plantation, an amount of Rs.61.00 crore, Rs.18.51 crore and Rs.4.37 crore has been sanctioned to Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal under the ICZMP Project. As per the State of Forest Report 2011, published by Forest Survey of India, the mangrove cover in the country stands at 4662.56 km² which is 0.14% of the country's total geographical area. Compared with 2009 assessment, there has been a net increase of 23.56 km² in the mangrove cover of the country. This can be attributed to increased plantations and regeneration of natural mangrove areas.

(d) & (e) Attention is being drawn to a news item in the English daily 'The Hindu' in which an article entitled 'China looks to Indian success story in fight to save its mangroves' featured on 14.04.2012. However, no formal request from China has been received by the ministry in this regard. Further, India is also one of the eight participating countries in the 'Mangroves For the Future (MFF) programme', which is a regional initiative in the South and South-East Asia. The MFF is led by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN) and it focuses on conservation and management of mangrove and other coastal and marine ecosystems.