

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3722
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
LIFTING OF BAN ON FISHING
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether Geological Survey of India in their report recommended to lift Ban on Fishing Gastropod Species for three years on temporary basis for rational exploitation of the Shellfish resources in Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Board of Wildlife of A&N Islands approved for de-listing the species for the period of three years in A&N Islands and sent to the Ministry on 11th May, 2011;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the L.G., A&N Islands made a special request for expediting decision of Ministry to safeguard interest of Artisans of the Islands; and
- (f) if so, the likely date of conveying such decisions by the Ministry?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received a D.O. letter from the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration in October 2012 regarding the issue of de-listing of *Trochus niloticus* from the Schedule-IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The said letter, inter alia, also mentions about the recommendations by the Zoological Survey of India for temporary delisting of the *Trochus* species as well as the fact that the proposal had been recommended by the State Board for Wildlife of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

However, in pursuance to the decision of the 13th Meeting of the Island Development Authority under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, a Committee had been constituted to holistically address the issue of poaching in the Andaman and Nicobar Island and the said Committee in its report, had recommended that the Zoological Survey of India carry out a scientific studies on *Trochus* and Sea Cucumbers with specific focus on the population status, incidental catch, biomass assessment, standing stock assessment, illegal fishing and trading of the two species. The Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration has already been informed of the recommendation.