

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2725
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
CONSERVATION OF MANGROVE FORESTS
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study for protection of Mangrove Forests in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government provides financial assistance to Coastal States/Union Territories for conservation and management of mangroves and coral reef;
- (d) if so, the details of assistance provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has also set up the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau to strengthen the enforcement of law; and
- (f) if so, the manner in which marine life including coral reef is likely to be protected under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The protection of mangroves is gauged by Forest Survey of India (FSI), which biennially assesses the mangrove cover of the country through remote sensing. As per the India State of Forest Report, 2011 of FSI, there is 4662.56 km² mangrove cover in the country and as compared to 2009 assessment there is 23.56 km² net increase in the mangrove forest cover. 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. Under the promotional measures the Ministry has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves of India. Under the Scheme, the Ministry provides 100% central assistance to coastal States/Union Territories, who 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.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The details of funds released to Coastal States/Union Territories for conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs under the Scheme on conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs, during the last three years are given below:

(Rs in Lakhs)

Sl	Name of State/UTs	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
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1.	Andaman & Nicobar	10.00	10.00	-
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2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-
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3.	Goa	-	-	-
4.	Gujarat	295.04	176.51	163.103
		11.82 CF	79.11CF	
5.	Karnataka	15.00/CF	43.80	91.229
6.	Kerala	37.3025/CF	62.380	
7.	Orissa	30.25	54.80	-
		7.50 CF		
8.	Tamil Nadu	134.78	181.28	121.880
		16.98 CF	35.375 CF	
9.	West Bengal	147.90	237.60	59.40
		0.80 CF		
10	Lakshadweep	-	-	-

CF = Carry Forward

An amount of Rs 750.00 lakh has been allocated during the current financial year (2013-14) for the Scheme.

Further, the Ministry also provides financial and technical assistance for protection and conservation of wildlife, including corals and its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. The details of funds released to Marine Protected Areas under the scheme during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

(Rs in lakh)

Name of the coastal States/UTs	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21.68	24.72	33.36
Marine National Park, Gujarat	21.71	29.11	42.78

Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha 22.60 22.69 29.38

Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu 28.064 36.082 26.12

Total 94.054 112.602 131.64

The total outlay under the Scheme during the current financial year (2013-14) is Rs 78.50 crore which includes provisions for the marine national parks and sanctuary mentioned above.

(e) To combat wildlife crime in the country, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been constituted by Government of India on 6 June, 2007 under Section 38(Y) of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(f) Following species of Corals have been provided legal protection by including them in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972:

(i) Reef Building Coral (All Scleractinians)

(ii) Black Coral (All Antipatharians)

(iii) Organ Pipe Coral (Tubipora musica)

(iv) Fire Coral (All Millipora Species)

(v) Sea Fan (All Gorgonians).