

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF MANGROVES

Somaiya Dr. Kirit

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

- (a) the details of the initiatives being undertaken by the Government of the protection and conservation of mangroves in the country including mangroves in and around Mumbai including Mahim creek and Mithi River;
- (b) whether the Government has received any proposal for development of mangrove parks around the Eastern Express Highway Mankhurd, Bhandup, Vikhoroli zone during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if so, the details and present status thereof; and
- (d) the details of the measures proposed/ undertaken for development and protection of mangrove parks?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) 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 (CRZ) Notification (2011) and Island Protection Zone (IPZ) 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. To enforce and implement the CRZ and IPZ Notifications, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted the National and State/UT level Coastal Zone Management Authorities. The Coastal States/UTs are also involving departments of Forests, Revenue and Police for taking steps to evict unauthorized land grabbers from mangrove areas. Under the promotional measures, the Ministry has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) 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 (MAPs) which comprise components such as Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation and Restoration of Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, education and awareness etc. As per the State of Forest Report 2013, published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun the mangrove cover in the country stands at 4628 km².

(b) & (c) As per the information received from the State Government of Maharashtra, no proposal for development of Mangrove Park around the Eastern Highway has been received. However, a proposal for establishing a Mangrove Wetland Centre (MWC) near Bhandup has been received.

(d) The State Government of Maharashtra has further informed that as per the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Bombay in PIL No. 87/2006, 5469 ha. of mangroves on Government land in Mumbai was declared as Protected Forests during 2007 & 2008. This included approximately 3998 ha. of land in Mumbai and 1471 ha. in Navi Mumbai. In 2013-14, the whole of this land was declared as Reserve Forest under section 4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927. Another 1774.4537 ha. of mangroves on private land was notified as 'Forests'. In addition, 3193 ha. of mangroves on government land in Raigad District was notified as Protected Forests, thus bringing 8662 ha. of mangroves under the management of Forest Department. The State has taken a decision to declare all mangroves on Government land as 'Reserve Forests' and all mangroves on private lands as 'Forests'. Further, mangroves conservation works are also being undertaken as part of a UNDP-GEF Project and under the ambit of the newly launched Indo-German-GIZ Project, both of which are being coordinated by Mangrove Cell.

In order to protect, conserve and manage the mangroves of Maharashtra coast, the State Government created the 'Mangrove Cell' on 5th January 2012. The Cell is headed by a Chief Conservator of Forests and has its Headquarter in Mumbai. Subsequently, to look after the protection and management of Mangroves of the Mumbai region, a 'Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit' was established under the Mangrove Cell w.e.f. 17th May 2013.

In addition, the following activities are also being undertaken by the State Government of Maharashtra:

- (i) Satellite mapping of mangrove areas and mudflats.
- (ii) Demarcation of the boundaries using distinct boundary pillars.

- (iii) Intensive patrolling in mangroves areas using speed boats, wherever necessary.
- (iv) Mangrove nurseries and plantations programmes in degraded mangrove areas.
- (v) Promotion of livelihood programmes like crab culture in mangrove areas.
- (vi) Eviction of illegal encroachments on mangrove land.
- (vii) Public awareness programs on the importance on the, mangroves with the help of NGOs and local communities as well as capacity building programmes for the staff of Forest Department.campaigns and capacity building programs.