

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2019

Mangroves of Sunderbans

*481. MS. LOCKET CHATTERJEE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to conserve the mangroves of Sunderbans and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps being taken to make Sunderbans plastic free;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make Sunderbans an eco-tourism hub and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps to conserve the wildlife in Sunderbans and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *481 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26.07.2019 REGARDING “MANGROVES OF SUNDERBANS” BY MS. LOCKET CHATTERJEE:

- (a) The Government has been taking steps to protect and enhance mangrove cover in Sunderbans through promotional as well as regulatory measures. The promotional measures are being implemented through a central sector scheme namely conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs under National Coastal Mission Programme. Under this Programme, projects for conservation and management of mangroves are formulated and implemented in the participating coastal States and Union Territories including State of West Bengal for Sunderbans. In addition, Government of West Bengal is also implementing State funded scheme to conserve and protect mangrove of Sunderbans. Regulatory measures are implemented through Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (2011 & 2019) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these acts as amended from time to time.
- (b) In the year 2017-18, Sunderbans has been declared as ‘Plastic Free Zone’ by the Government of West Bengal. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has promulgated direction vide Memo No. 1833A-3S-89/2001 dated: 03/09/2001 under sections, 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 prohibiting the entry, use and possession of plastic carry bags in entire Sunderbans Area. The Officers-in Charge of the Police Stations concerned are empowered to take legal action under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code in case of violation against the offender, if any.
- (c) There is no plan at present to make Sunderbans an eco-tourism hub.
- (d) Sunderbans area is declared as a ‘Tiger Reserve’ for the purpose of conserving wildlife. Conservation of flora and fauna of the Sunderbans is implemented through the legally mandated Tiger Conservation Plan which *inter alia*, has prescriptions for management of mangrove areas, anti-poaching, habitat management, monitoring and staff development.
