

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5326

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001

PROTECTION OF ANDAMAN MARINE WEALTH

BALARAMA KRISHNA MURTHY KARNAM;DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO;DUMPA MARY VIJAYAKUMARI

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

(

(a) whether gangs from Myanmar, Indonesia and Srilanka are having a free run of India's exclusive economic zone and looking seabed treasure like sea cucumber and cut down trees of the Andaman Islands;

(b) if so, the facts thereof ;

(c) whether Diglipur and Mayarwende islands have lost almost all tree wealth ; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to save marine wealth?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a), (b),(c)& (d) Vessels from Myanmar, Indonesia , Thailand and other neighboring countries do visit the Andaman Islands and sometimes manage to take sea cucumber and other marine products. Occasional cutting of trees is also resorted to by them for meeting their camping requirement and for repairing / construction of boats.

There are reports of felling of trees in Diglipur and Mayabunder Islands by old revenuesettlers and encroachers. The Forest Department maintains regular establishments in each of these islands and take adequate measures to protect forest and wildlife resources. Intensive patrolling is done by the staff to prevent illegal activities on these islands.

Action taken by the Government to save marine wealth of Andaman Islands include:

(i) Indian Navy and Coast Guards maintain constant vigil around the islands.

(ii) Regular aerial surveillance and patrolling of Exclusive Economic Zone is done by Indian Navy and Coast Guards.

(iii) Regular anti- poaching operations are carried out by Coast Guards .150 boats have been seized and 1197 foreign nationals have been arrested by them since 1996.

(iv) Police Department provides protection to natural resources of these islands.

(v) Forest and Environment Department has deployed protection staff in main islands for the prevention of illegal activities.