

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2192
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
KILLING OF TURTLES
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB;CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether a large number of Olive Ridley turtles have been found killed near Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Orissa Coast as reported in `The Hindu` dated January 27,2001;
- (b) if so, the details and facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) The action taken for their protection?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government 3202 Olive Ridley turtles have died in Gahirmatha Coast till 23rd February, 2001. Most of the deaths have occurred due to entanglement of turtles in gill nets of fishing trawlers.
- (c) Steps taken for the protection of Olive Ridley turtles; are:-
 - (i) Patrolling by the staff along the sea coast has been intensified. 5 trawlers, 27 Gillnetters and 2 mechanised boats have been seized.
 - (ii) High powered committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Orissa to review/monitor the conservation of sea turtle in the State.
 - (iii) 5 km. Coastal water along the entire Orissa coast has been declared as prohibited area for mechanized fishing activities.
 - (iv) Protection camps with communication facilities like wireless sets have been set up at strategic points.
 - (v) Indian Coast Guards also patrol the area in high sea along the above mentioned nesting grounds of sea turtles to prevent illegal fishing and trawling.