

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2453
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
THREAT TO OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES
Jagannath Dr. M.;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

(a) whether unchecked trawling is threatening India's precious maritime resources especially Olive Ridley Turtles on the shores of Orissa and has caused killing of more than 2000 Turtles there; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the natural sea-wealth?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Yes, Sir, unchecked trawling is a threat to maritime resources, including Olive Ridley Turtles.

(b) Following steps have been taken to protect the natural sea wealth from such activities -

(i) Trawling has been restricted in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary and the sea within ten kilometer radius from the sea coast.

(ii) Fishing has been prohibited for the period covering October to March every year under the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, upto a distance of 20 kms. from the nesting beaches of Olive Ridley Turtles at Devi River mouth and Rushikulya mouth.

(iii) Financial assistance has been provided to State Forest Department for Protection of marine wealth in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

(iv) Olive Ridley Sea Turtles have been provided maximum legal protection by including them in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.