

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2739  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006  
DECLINE MARINE SPECIES  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether environmentalists have conducted a survey on marine species recently;
- (b) if so, whether they have predicted that marine life is likely to come to an end by the year 2050;
- (c) if so, the details and the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the preventive measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has carried out a global assessment of the current status of marine species based on scientific publications.

(b) & (c) The IUCN has identified the threats to marine life and rate of decline of some of key species based on which their probable survival time period have been projected. The study, however, points out the requirement and activities by maritime nations to prevent such a situation. Over fishing, discharge of land based pollution in to the sea, coral reef mining, sedimentation, exploitation of rare and threatened marine fauna for commercial purposes and global climate changes have been pointed out as the major reasons for decline in marine diversity.

(d) The preventive measures suggested in the study were as follows:

(i) Formulation of a global and national marine conservation strategy and action plan

(ii) Creation of a network of marine protected areas.

(iii) Sateguarding the marine environment from land based impact

(iv) A thorough assessment of threatened and endangered marine flora and fauna by the Marine Habitat and Resource Scientific and Management Authorities.

In Indian context, it is mentioned that India is a member of international conservation organizations/conventions and Marine Protected Areas are already in place. Necessary legal provisions under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 are already there to safeguard marine environment. Assessment of thr5eatened marine flora and fauna has been undertaken by the Wild Life Institute of India, Zoological survey of India and Fishery Survey of India. Many marine species like Corals, Elasmobranchs, Molluscs, Holothurians, etc. have been included in the Schedule-1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby giving highest degree of protection.