

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:765
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
PROTECTION OF DOLPHINS
Jagannath Dr. M.,Subba Shri Moni Kumar

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

- (a) whether the dancing dolphins are facing extinction;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess their approximate population and reasons for decline in their population;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken to reverse the declining trend in dolphin population and save them from the brink of extinction ?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (d) As per the information available, Dancing Dolphins (Delphinus delphis) is not facing threat of extinction. However, the other two species of Dolphins, viz. Irrawady Dolphin

(Orcaella brevirostris) and Gangetic Dolphin ((Platanista gangetica) are endangered in Indian waters. In order to protect these two species, they have been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving them highest degree of protection. Further, their main habitats have also been declared as Protected Areas.