

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:94
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
STUDY ON MARINE ANIMALS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has launched a study on the underwater wealth, especially the coral reef and other scheduled marine animals of the Gulf of Mannar to design a management plan for the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said study is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS(a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 94 FOR REPLY ON 05-03-2007 REGARDING "STUDY ON MARINE ANIMALS".

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has been assigned a project namely "Development of Management Plan for the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and Biosphere Reserve" by the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust of Tamil Nadu in January 2006. The main objective of the project is to develop a 10 year Management Plan for the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. The management plan would address the issues of conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity of the area with the following objectives:

- (1) Restoration and protection plan for the coral reefs and to establish permanent monitoring plots in the coral reef habitats in the Gulf of Mannar region for regular monitoring of their status and
- (2) To suggest a recovery plan of scheduled marine animals of the region.

c) The project is expected to be completed by March, 2007.