

**Management of coral reef eco-system In
Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

4150. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

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

(a) whether the UNDP has agreed to assist India with conservation and management of the coral reef ecosystem in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the nature of the assistance provided by UNDP; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to stop further deterioration the ecosystem in Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) and (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as an Implementing Agency of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has acted as a facilitator in securing financial assistance of US \$ 3,45,000 from GEF to develop a Management Plan for selected sites of coral reefs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (1991) issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 prohibits the use of corals and sands from the beaches and coastal water for construction and other purposes. Dredging and underwater blasting in and around coral formations is also prohibited. Collection and destruction of corals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is banned under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Fisheries Regulation read with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Shell Fishing Rules, 1978. In addition to these regulatory measures, financial assistance is provided to the A&N Administration for implementation of management action plans for conservation and management of coral reefs under the scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs.

Measures to combat vehicular pollution

4151. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking/ have taken any measures to combat vehicular pollution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken during the past 10 years for control of vehicular pollution in the metros include the following:

(i) The Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 was amended in 1988 and 1994, wherein provisions for control of automobile pollution were notified.

(ii) Emission norms were notified in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules in 1989. These include mass emission standards for emissions for both petrol and diesel vehicles of all categories, at the manufacturing stage and gross emission standards for vehicles on-road.

(iii) Emission standards have been progressively tightened for emissions from vehicles at the manufacturing stage. The norms first came into effect on 9.1.1990 and a tighter emission standard was introduced on 1.4.1996. A more stringent norm effective from 1.4.2000 has been notified. This would help introduce cleaner vehicles involving upgradation of technologies to reduce emissions from vehicles.

(iv) Ambient air quality standards have been notified in the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These include standards for major air pollutants for different areas such as residential, industrial, sensitive areas. The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring the levels of air pollutants in all the