

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2917
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

Killing of aquatic mammals by boats and fishing vessels

2917. SHRI JYOTIRADITYAM. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether nearly ten thousand aquatic mammals like whales and dolphins get snagged by mechanical boats/fishing vessels every year across the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has issued any guidelines in this regard to conserve these species;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of action plan formulated in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

- (a) Scientific studies on incidental catch of cetaceans along Indian coast estimate that about 9000–10,000 cetaceans are killed by gillnets every year along the Indian coast.
- (b) to (d) Ministry has issued Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Management Guidelines on 28th January, 2021. These guidelines provide for establishment of National Stranding Centre, State Stranding Centres, Local Stranding Networks/Volunteer Networks/Stranding Co-ordinators, rapid response teams to improve coordination between various government and non-government entities responding to marine megafauna stranding, research and management issues, and to coordinate, support and share data. These guidelines also provide standard operating procedures for the management of marine megafauna stranded on the shore or entrapped in shallow waters, bays and potentially unable to return to the sea.
