

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 4023
ANSWERED ON – 07/04/2022

Exploration of deep sea to determine origin of life on Earth

4023. Shri Vaiko:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to do investigation/exploration in the deep sea up to 20,000 feet to do research on how life originated on Earth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any funds have been allotted for this purpose, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time period of research and whether foreign scientists would also be involved in the study, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Under the recently launched Deep Ocean Mission, one of the objectives is focussed on studies on deep sea vent conditions and formation of life-friendly molecules and organismal components, which will attempt to throw some light on how life originated on Earth.
- (c) Yes, Sir. Rs. 58.77 crore is allocated for a period of 5 years for Deep sea biofouling and origin of life studies.
- (d) The Deep Ocean Mission has been approved initially for 5 years. MoES will coordinate this study in collaboration with relevant national and international organisations.
