

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2581  
ANSWERED ON 23/03/2023**

**Assessment of marine debris**

**2581 # Smt. Sumitra Balmik:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any work is being done by the Ministry for assessment of marine debris;
- (b) the total quantum of debris which has accumulated in the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean along with the region where there is more debris; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is devising an action plan to remove this debris in collaboration with any other department?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Earth Sciences through National Centre for Coastal Research and Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change through National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has been actively involving in assessment of marine debris.
- (b) National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), an attached office of MoES, conducted a study on marine litter in the Bay of Bengal and estimated that the total weight of plastic debris in the Bay of Bengal was around 3819 tons. In addition, sporadic measurements/reports are available for the Indian Coast. However, overall quantum of marine debris on a comparative basis for Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean is not available.
- (c) MoES has launched Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign to clean up Indian beaches and raise awareness about the importance of a “Clean Coast and Safe Sea” under the context of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. A 75-day long citizen-led campaign for improving ocean health through collective action has been commenced on 03<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 and culminates on International Coastal Clean-up Day by 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022. During this event 75 beaches were cleaned. In addition, various activities are in place with respect to marine litter management program like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, National River Conservation plan, Swachh Sagar Abhiyan, Coastal Clean Seas, Blue-flag beach certification etc.

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