

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 34**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

**Impact of Kappaphycus on Ecological balance**

34. SHRI VAIKO:

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

- (a) whether the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and Seagrass beds in Palk Bay are facing threat from exotic plants like seaweed Kappaphycus;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government studied the impact of Kappaphycus on the ecological balance which is posing a serious danger to the coral reefs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (d) As informed by the State of Tamil Nadu, the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and sea grass bed in Palk Bay are facing threat from exotic plant like Kappaphycus alverzii, as it had invaded the coral colonies of islands in the year 2008 and since then, has been causing destruction to corals in the islands of Shingle, Krusadai Poomarichan, Mulli, Valai and Thalaiyari in Gulf of Mannar.

Two studies have been undertaken on the impact of the Kappaphycus on sea grasses and impact on coral reefs. These studies were carried out during the period between 2008 and 2017 and the State of Tamil Nadu has been taking efforts to avoid spreading of Kappaphycus.

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