

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2584
ANSWERED ON 23/03/2023

THREAT TO MARINE LIFE BY UNDERWATER NOISE EMISSIONS

2584. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the threat posed to the lives of marine mammals in Indian waters by the increase in man-made underwater noise emissions (UNE);
- (b) whether frequent shipping traffic of commercial vessels is a major cause of UNE, if so, Government's plan to reduce the same;
- (c) whether the National Center for Coastal Research (NCCR) collects information about underwater noise levels in Indian seas;
- (d) for (a) and (c), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Deep Ocean Mission or the National Policy for Blue Economy will solve the above problem?

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

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is carrying out projects pertaining to noise monitoring in Indian seas. However, research activities pertaining to reduce such causes are not being carried out so far.
- (c) No Sir. National Center for Coastal Research (NCCR) is not involved in collection of information about underwater noise levels in Indian seas.
- (d) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under MoES collects information about underwater noise levels in Indian seas. Autonomous noise measurement system has been developed and deployed in Indian seas for monitoring the man-made Underwater Noise Emissions (UNE).
- (e) No Sir. This is not explicitly addressed in the Deep Ocean Mission or the National Policy for Blue Economy.
