

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *219
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2022**

MARINE POLLUTION

***219. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:**

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India, Australia and Singapore have come together to address marine pollution with a focus on plastic debris during the recently concluded workshop;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein and the views of the various participants during the said workshop;
- (c) the manner in which this workshop has provided an impetus to East Asia Summit (EAS) countries for exploring and informing each other about the challenges, questions and solutions to marine litter- especially plastic research, use, design, disposal, recycling, and future collaborations for a plastic-free and healthy ocean for sustainable development; and
- (d) the suggestions shared by various participants as to the manner in which the growing problem of marine pollution is to be dealt with in the coming years?

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 219 REGARDING “MARINE POLLUTION” FOR ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) The workshop deliberated on four different themes.

- Magnitude of the marine litter problem: monitoring programs and research on plastic debris in the Indo-Pacific Region
- Best practices, novel approaches, and solutions to prevent plastic pollution
- Polymers and plastics: technology and innovations
- Opportunities for regional collaboration to remediate or stop plastic pollution

About 100 participants from different countries joined the workshop held on 14th and 15th February 2022. The participants agreed that marine litter pollution being a transboundary problem, it was important for collaborative action plans for combating this menace.

(c) The workshop created a platform for the different stakeholders like academicians, researchers, industry, NGOs and policy makers etc., to discuss on the various challenges, innovations, best practices and technologies being adopted in the respective countries for a plastic free and healthy ocean for sustainable development.

(d) Some of the notable suggestions shared by the participants to address the growing problem of marine pollution were - knowledge sharing, innovative technology for the repurposing/recycling of waste, collaboration, public awareness, education and training, infrastructure and systems to support circular economy.
