

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.

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