

SUBJECT:- “PROTECTION OF TURTLE NESTING SITES IN GOA”.

Unstarred LAQ No.015 tabled by Shri Aleixo Lourenco, MLA to be answered on 10/08/2023.

	Question	Answer
	WILL the Minister for Forests be pleased to state:	By Shri Vishwajit Rane, Hon. Minister for Forest
(a)	the details of all turtle nesting sites identified or notified in Goa;	Sir, as per Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2011 Morjim, Ashwem/ Mandrem, Agonda and Galgibag have been notified as turtle nesting sites. Copy of the Notification is at Annexure –I . In addition, turtle nesting is also observed at other beaches including Calangute Baga, Colva, Varca, Pololem, Bogmalo, etc.
(b)	the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect turtle nesting sites;	Sir, various measures are taken by Forest Department for protection of turtle nesting sites including; <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regular patrolling is carried out by the staff of Marine Range especially during the nesting season,2. Monitoring and protection of nesting pits and beaches against predators and human interference.3. Maintaining the data of number of nests, eggs laid and number of eggs hatched.4. Motivating local people in conservation of breeding and nesting turtles.5. Awareness creation among the fishing community, local inhabitants, local tourist visiting the sites, sensitizing beach shack owners for management of tourist during overcrowding, high illumination/music during night hours.

		<p>6. Signages and warnings are placed for visitors approaching beaches about do's and don'ts to safe guard turtle nesting sites.</p> <p>7. In coordination with District Admin, GCZMA and GSPCB, various measures are taken as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court and NGT in this regard.</p>
(c)	whether any buffer zone is notified or proposed to be notified around the turtle nesting sites; if so, the details thereof;	Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration. However, as per CRZ Notification 2011, no development activities shall be permitted in the turtle breeding areas. Copy of CRZ Notification 2011 is as per Annexure – I.
(d)	the measures adopted to further protect these nesting sites and the timeline for their implementation; and	Sir, as at 'b' above.
(e)	whether any CRZ Officials or Collector has issued any instructions for the protection of turtle nesting site including Morjim and Mandrem in Pernem Taluka, Agonda and Galibaga in Canacona Taluka; if so, furnish details and the steps taken to protect the turtle nesting site; whether the Government is aware that a Goan landlord has kept large stretch of land for turtle nesting sites in Goa; if so, furnish details thereof?	Sir, the Collector (North) on the recommendation of Goa Coastal Zone Management (GCMA) has issued a notification for silence zone in Morjim, Mandrem in Pernem Taluka. The copy of said Notification is as per Annexure –II.

