

**Compensation to fishermen caught by Pakistan army**

3401. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any provision to provide compensation to the fishermen captured by the Pakistan army;
- (b) if so, the amount given to such fishermen; and
- (c) if not, whether Government is contemplating to launch any scheme to provide compensation to such poor fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had in March, 2009 launched a Non-Plan Scheme of Soft Loan Package for Replacement of Fishing Vessels held in captivity in Pakistan. Under this scheme, capital subsidy to the tune of 30% cost of each vessel, subject to a ceiling of ₹ 6 lakh is provided to each vessel owner for replacement of his/her fishing vessel seized in Pakistan. An amount of ₹ 750 lakh has been released up to December, 2014 to the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Department of Commerce, being the designated implementing agency under the scheme. MPEDA has reported that assistance under this scheme has been provided to a total of 125 beneficiaries utilising the full amount released so far.

**Recommendation of NITI Aayog for sale of sick Pharma PSUs**

3402. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NITI Aayog has recommended closure or strategic sale of sick pharma PSUs, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of NITI Aayog; and
- (c) whether Government would explore the joint venture route to revive these PSUs since there is a huge shortage of indigenous bulk drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The matter of sick Pharma PSUs is under inter-Ministerial consultation.

- (c) There is no proposal under consideration for taking the Joint Venture route for revival of Sick Pharma PSUs.