

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 574
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2021

Representation from fishermen against fishing ban period

574. Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of representations submitted by fishermen to Department officials, State-wise to defer the annual fishing ban period, which is usually imposed for conservation and effective management of marine resources and also for sea safety reasons including the traditional non-motorised craft which are usually exempted from the ban as associations said they had been badly affected due to lockdown in COVID-19 period and also other demands and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and State-wise/action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DAIRYING

(Dr. L. MURUGAN)

(a) and (b): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DoF, MoFAHD), Government of India implements the uniform fishing ban in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for a period of 61 days, i.e., in East Coast from 15th April to 14th June and in West Coast: From 1st June to 31st July, every year for conservation and effective management of marine resources and also for sea safety reasons. The traditional non-motorized fishing crafts are exempted from the uniform fishing ban imposed in the Indian EEZ beyond territorial waters. Two representations have been received in the DoF, MoFAHD, relating to the implementation of annual uniform fishing ban during the lockdown period due to COVID-19 in 2020, (i) National Fishworkers Forum vide its letter dated 02.4.2020 requested to adhere to the uniform fishing ban implemented in the Indian EEZ for a period of 61 days during the lockdown and to come out with a financial package according to the needs on the ground, (ii) International Fishermen Development Trust vide its letter dated 22.4.2020 requested to cancel the uniform fishing ban implemented in the Indian EEZ or adjust the loss of days due lockdown with annual uniform fishing ban implemented in the Indian EEZ for a period of 61 days. The DoF, MoFAHD in consultation with States/Union Territories had revised and reduced the uniform fishing ban period in the Indian EEZ for a period from 61 days to 47 days and implemented in the East Coast from 15th April to 31st May, 2020 and in the West Coast from 15th June to 31st July, 2020. In order to support the fishermen, fish farmers and fish workers depending on fisheries sector for their livelihood, the Government of India launched a flagship scheme of 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMMSY) as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat COVID-19 relief package with highest ever investment of Rs. 20050 crore in fisheries sector for a period of 5 years with effect from the financial year 2020-21 for implementation in all States/Union Territories.
