

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 260
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2023

Fisheries management and marine conservation

260. SHRI BINOVY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of *Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying* be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of fish stocks in Indian waters, and the steps taken to prevent overfishing and ensure sustainable fisheries;
- (b) the details of income and livelihoods of fishing communities, and the initiatives undertaken to support their welfare; and
- (c) the number of such activities and the measures taken to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities domestically and internationally?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a) The potential of fishery resources are estimated by Committee of experts constituted by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India in regular intervals to ascertain the status of fish stocks and revalidation of Potential of fishery resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). As per the latest report of the Expert Committee for Revalidation of potential Fishery Resources (2018) the marine fishery resources in the EEZ are estimated at 5.31 million tones. As per the latest study undertaken by the ICAR-CMFRI, the marine fish stocks of the Indian waters are in good health and 91.1% of the 135 fish stocks evaluated in different regions during 2022 were found sustainable. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has notified the 'National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF), 2017' with aim to keep sustainability of the resources at the core of all actions. Besides, the Government of India has taken several steps to increase the fish stocks, to prevent overfishing and to ensure sustainable fisheries, such as implementation of 61 days uniform ban during monsoon season, ban on destructive fishing methods viz. pair trawling or bull trawling and use of artificial LED lights in fishing, discouraging juvenile fishing and promotion of sea ranching, installation of Artificial Reefs, mariculture including seaweed cultivation etc.

(b) The policy framework of 'National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF), 2017' aims to meet the national, social and economic goals, livelihood sustainability and socio-economic upliftment of the fisher community and is intended to guide the coordination and management of marine fisheries in the country. The welfare and upliftment of fishers are at the core of the National Policy and accordingly, various schemes and initiatives are undertaken by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India, such as (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries implemented at a total outlay of Rs. 5000 crore for a period of 5 years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, (ii) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total fund size of Rs 7522 crore for a period of 5 years from 2018-19 to 2023-24 for providing concessional finance, (iii) issuance of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to fishers and fish farmers and (iv) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an investment of Rs.20,050 crore for a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. With a highest ever investments in fisheries sector, the Government of India is taking up initiatives towards overall development of fisheries sector and socio-economic upliftment of fishermen communities.

(c) Adequate measures have been taken by the Government to prevent and control Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India, which inter alia include:

- i. Authorization of the Indian Coast Guard under the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 to prevent illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters.
- ii. Regulation, monitoring, control and surveillance by enforcement agencies of Maritime States/Union Territories (UTs) under their respective Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) of coastal States/UTs for preventing IUU fishing.
- iii. Implementation of ReALCraft, a web based online portal for mandatory registration of fishing vessels under the Merchant Shipping Act 1958 and licensing of fishing vessels under respective MFRAs by the coastal States/UTs.
- iv. Issuance of Biometric Identity cards to marine fishers for their identification.
- v. Government of India has sanctioned and released an amount of Rs. 18.01 Crore to Government of Tamil Nadu for fitment of transponders on board in the mechanized fishing vessels of Tamil Nadu under 'Blue Revolution' scheme.
- vi. Support under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for Communication and Tracking Devices like VHF/DAT/NAVIC/ Transponders for fishing vessels.
