

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1534
To be answered on 29th July, 2022

Impact of IUU fishing in India

1534. DR. K. LAXMAN

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

- (a) whether there is any parameter to assess the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact of IUU fishing on Indian economy; and
- (d) the steps taken for protecting the interest of farmers, MSMEs and fisherman under the 'Geneva Package' and how it will be helpful for India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) '*inter alia*' means fishing activities undertaken by fishing vessels or operators without permission or in contravention of the laws and regulations of the country or in contravention of the conservation and management measures of the relevant regional fisheries management organization to which a country is a party, or fishing activities not reported or fishing activities in unregulated areas of high seas. Countries determine IUU fishing as per their national framework of laws, regulations and/or administrative procedures. While there is no specific report available on the impact of IUU fishing on Indian economy, the overall economic loss resulting from illegal catches is estimated at USD 26 billion to USD 50 billion globally, as per independent researchers.

(d): India played a leadership role in bridging the differences and bringing together the WTO members on various multilateral issues in WTO including the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies during the 12th Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Geneva from 12th June 2022 to 17th June 2022. The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies was adopted on 17th June 2022. During the negotiations India ensured that the long term interests of the traditional and small-scale fishers of developing countries including India are adequately protected, by ensuring that there is no restriction of subsidies given to fishermen for fishing in the Territorial Waters, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the areas of high seas within the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) except for IUU and overfished categories. Thus the subsidies provided to the fishermen under various central and State

Government schemes and programs will be continued as usual. As per the Agreement, subsidies given by advanced fishing countries to their industrial fishing vessels for fishing in unregulated high seas and doing IUU fishing will be stopped henceforth. It is expected that this will reduce industrial fishing and make more fish available to our fishermen. With the implementation of the Agreement, India will be in a position to act against subsidies provided to foreign vessels operating adjacent to Indian EEZ.

Further, on India's insistence the Agreement provides for determination of IUU fishing or overfished stocks to be done by the coastal nation for fishing in its Territorial waters and EEZ. Thus no outside interference in this regard is expected.
