

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1531
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th DECEMBER, 2023

First comprehensive marine fish stock assessment

1531. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the first comprehensive marine fish stock assessment for the country was published recently;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that 90 per cent of more than 300 fish stocks were found to be healthy, meaning thereby that fishermen will get quality and good quantity of fish from sea;
- (c) whether South East Coast has the highest percentage (97 per cent) of healthy fish stock;
- (d) if so, whether any assessment has been made about the availability of fish on South East Coast, State-wise; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) had recently published Marine Fish Stock Status of India 2022 (CMFRI Booklet Series No. 32/2023) wherein comprehensive marine fish stock assessment for the country has been published.
- (b) As per the report, 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.
- (c) The report assessed the status of marine fish stocks of four regions of Indian seas, viz., southwest, northwest, southeast, northeast and Lakshadweep. 39 fish stocks were assessed from southeast region of Indian coast, and 97.4% were found healthy.
- (d) Species-wise catches and length-frequency data were collected from landings by different gears in all regions including south-east coastal states for the assessment, including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

- (e) The objective of the report was to assess the status and provide a synoptic picture of the marine fish stocks of national and regional importance under the currently prevalent fisheries management regime in the country, including Andhra Pradesh. Fish stocks as defined by their management unit (regions) were assessed for biological sustainability based on abundance and level of harvest. The State-wise assessments were not attempted as a part of the study detailed in CMFRI Booklet Series No. 32/2023 of Marine Fish Stock Status of India 2022. As per the report, the 135 fish stocks of 70 fish species (including 49 finfishes and 21 shellfishes) of marine fish were assessed and 91.1% of the fish stocks were found to be healthy. The region-wise status of the marine fish stock assessed are detailed below:

Sr. No.	Region	No. of Fish stocks assessed	Healthy fish stocks (%)
1.	Northwest	37	83.8%
2.	Southwest	41	92.7%
3.	Lakshadweep	2	100%
4.	Northeast	16	87.5%
5.	Southeast	39	97.4%
Total		135	91.1%
