

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 889  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

**Installation of transponders in fishing vessels**

**889. DR. AMAR PATNAIK**

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

- (a) Whether the Central Government has approved a project for the national rollout of vessel communication and support systems, including transponders, on approximately 1,00,000 fishing vessels in all coastal States and Union Territories, as requested by the Government of Odisha; and
- (b) If so, by when does the Central Government plan to complete the installation of the transponders, including those in mechanised fishing vessels and trawlers for the protection of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles on Odisha's coast?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**

**(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)**

(a): Yes Sir, the Central Government has approved a project for the National Rollout of Vessel Communication and Support System, including installation of transponders under *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana* (PMMSY) on approximately 1,00,000 fishing vessels in all coastal States and 4 Union Territories. This project has been approved on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 with total outlay of Rs. 364.0 Crore with 60:40 fund sharing pattern between the Center and Coastal States. It will be given free of cost to the boat owners. It is a two-way communication system at sea that will enable the fishermen to send short text messages during any emergency covering entire EEZ of the country and timely rescue can be provided. This will also give alerts to the fishermen if they unintentionally cross International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). This Vessel Communication and Support System will be a lifeline to the fishermen of the country during any natural calamity like cyclones and the life of fishermen can be saved by providing them timely support.

(b): Vessel Communication and support System has been indigenously developed under *Atma Nirbhar Bharat* by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) using Indian Satellites. This project is being implemented through New Space India Ltd (NSIL), a 100% Government of India company under the Department of Space as an implementing agency with technical support from Indian Space Research Organization.

As far as plan to complete the installation of the transponders is concerned, including those in mechanized fishing vessel and trawlers for the protection of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles on Odisha's coast, the NSIL has prepared a schedule to deploy the transponders in all mechanized fishing vessels of Odisha by September 2024.

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