

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1813
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th DECEMBER, 2024
Rights for Fishermen over Marine Resources

1813 Shri Jose K. Mani:

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

- (a) whether Government have the data regarding the number of persons engaged as fishermen in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to bring about suitable legislation which grants rights for fishermen over marine resources; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) & (b): Data on fishermen population in the country has been compiled in consultation with States/UTs Department of Fisheries and such data reveals that there are a total of 2,80,63,538 fishermen in the country. The state-wise details of fishermen population are furnished as **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d): All the coastal State/Union Territories have already enacted their Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) / Marine Fishing Regulations to govern fishing activities within 12 nautical miles of territorial waters. The coastal States/UTs through these MFRAs have earmarked the zones/sea areas reserved for fishing only by the traditional fishermen using non-motorized and motorized fishing boats, wherein mechanized fishing vessels are not allowed to fish, e.g., Gujarat has reserved the area up to 9 nautical miles from the shore, Goa has reserved the area up to 2.7 nautical miles from the coast-line; Karnataka has reserved the area up to 3.23 nautical miles from the shore or up to 4 fathoms (whichever is farther) for traditional crafts; Tamil Nadu and Odisha have reserved the areas up to 5 nautical miles for traditional non-mechanized boats, and Andhra Pradesh has reserved the area upto 4.3 nautical miles from the shore for traditional crafts.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1813 for answer on 11th December, 2024 put in by Shri Jose K. Mani, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). State/UT-wise details of the fishermen population in the country

States/UTs	Fishermen Population
Andhra Pradesh	14,96,688
Arunachal Pradesh	24,015
Assam	25,24,106
Bihar	60,27,375
Chhattisgarh	2,20,355
Goa	10,545
Gujarat	5,58,691
Haryana	1,18,455
Himachal Pradesh	11,806
Jharkhand	1,40,897
Karnataka	9,74,277
Kerala	10,44,361
Madhya Pradesh	22,32,822
Maharashtra	15,18,228
Manipur	47,711
Meghalaya	16,567
Mizoram	6,289
Nagaland	7,958
Odisha	15,17,574
Punjab	7,591
Rajasthan	57,260
Sikkim	581
Tamil Nadu	12,83,751
Telangana	8,62,221
Tripura	7,761
Uttarakhand	8,352
Uttar Pradesh	39,00,005
West Bengal	32,36,261
A&N Islands	25,941
Chandigarh	524
Dadra & N. H. and Daman & Diu	40,106
Delhi	3,346
Jammu & Kashmir	17,396
Ladakh	22
Lakshadweep	6,518
Puducherry	1,07,272
All India	2,80,63,538