

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 523
ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

BAN ON EXPORT OF SHRIMPS

523. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United States ban on the export of wild-caught shrimp is still in effect;
- (b) whether the US ban has caused a decline in the export price of shrimps;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the job loss/financial loss suffered by the marine exporting industry and the fishermen community, due to the ban;
- (d) whether Government has provided any assistance to those who have lost their jobs;
- (e) the quantum of financial loss incurred in the export sector; and
- (f) whether Government has initiated diplomatic intervention for lifting the ban on the export of wild-caught shrimps?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) Under Section 609 of US public law 101-162, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, the United States has issued a notification in May 2018 which prohibits imports of certain categories of shrimp unless exporting nation harvests shrimp without adversely affecting the sea turtles. The Notification, inter-alia, lists 13 shrimp harvesting nations having regulatory programmes comparable to that of the United States. India is not covered under this list which renders it unable to export the wild caught shrimp to the US.
- (b) Such regulation by the US may have caused an impact on export price. However, there are no such studies establishing a link between the said prohibition by the US and the fall in export price of wild caught shrimp.
- (c) The Government has not received any representation regarding any job loss/financial loss suffered by the marine exporting industry or the fishermen community, pursuant to the said prohibition.

(d) The question does not arise in view of (c) above

(e) The prohibition may have caused an impact on export sector. However, no such studies are there to establish this link.

(f) Yes. Department of Commerce through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), has tested several versions of the Turtle Exclusion Device (TED) in consultation with both the US Department of State and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Trials have also been carried out. Further, Department of Commerce has taken up the matter through various bilateral mechanisms between India and the US at both official and ministerial level. Some of such recent interventions have been through the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) held in New Delhi in January 2024 and the Trade Policy Forum Inter-sessional held in September 2024.
