

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 378
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd July, 2025

Protest of fishermen in Kerala against Blue Economy

378# Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) whether fishermen in Kerala are protesting against Government's Blue Economy initiative to lease seabed off the Kollam shore in Kerala to private mining;
- (b) whether fishermen's associations argue that seabed mining would devastate country's fishing industry, adversely affecting both the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal regions as the Arabian Sea site is crucial for fishing communities in multiple Indian states due to its rich marine resources; and
- (c) the details about any impact assessment that was undertaken by the Ministry?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)**

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Mines, Government of India enacted the Offshore Areas Mineral and Development Act, 2002, which came into effect in 2010. Ministry of Mines has informed that so far, no mining has ever taken place in the offshore areas including territorial waters, EEZ, or continental shelf. Hence, no such study is conducted to assess the impact of offshore mining off Kerala coast at Kollam. As per the provisions of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024, before execution of an operating right, the bidders are required to obtain all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections as may be required under applicable laws. Further, as per the provisions of the Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024, no production operations shall be undertaken except in accordance with a production plan. The production plan, *inter-alia*, includes environment management plan indicating baseline information, impact assessment and mitigation measures. The said Act & the Rules ensure environment protection and preventing any adverse impact on the marine ecosystem. A project proposal titled "Preparation of Terms of Reference for the Offshore Mining Areas beyond 12 Nautical Miles" has been submitted by National Institute of Oceanography to Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has advised the Ministry of Mines, Government of India to ensure sustainability of the fisheries resources and the livelihood issues of the fishermen are adequately addressed in the production plan and in the environmental management plan.