

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2774
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026

TRANSPONDER INSTALLATION UNDER VCSS

2774 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) State-wise breakup of transponders installed under the Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS) against sanctioned target of one lakh vessels under PMMSY, as of date;
- (b) whether West Bengal, despite having approximately 9,000 marine fishing vessels, commenced installation only in June, 2025, lagging behind States like Odisha, Maharashtra and Gujarat, and if so, reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is aware that absence of transponders contributed to the "Joy Maa Kali" trawler tragedy near Bakkhali, South 24 Parganas, in July, 2026, claiming at least 10 fishermen's lives, and the corrective measures being taken to expedite VCSS rollout in West Bengal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a): The Department of Fisheries, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has approved a project on “National Rollout Plan for Vessel Communication and Support System” for installation of indigenously developed transponders on one lakh marine fishing vessels covering mechanized and motorized vessels of all 13 coastal states and UTs with an outlay of Rs. 364 Crores. Vessel Communication and Support System is being implemented by NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL) with technical support of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Till date (06.08.2026), 59,748 transponders have been installed in the coastal States and UTs. State-wise breakup of transponders installed under the Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS) against sanctioned target of one lakh vessels under PMMSY, as of date (06.08.2026) is furnished at the **Annexure**.

(b): Installation of transponders in the State of West Bengal have commenced from the month of May 2025. West Bengal has given a requirement of 3,396 transponders out of which 2,590 transponders have been installed. The State has achieved substantial progress of 76.26 % in terms of installation of transponder which is almost par with other States/UTs.

(c): As per the information received from the Government of West Bengal, the fishing vessel "Joy Maa Kali" (Registration No. IND-WB-CN-MM-528) had been fitted with a transponder. However, the transponder was reportedly switched off by the vessel owner at the time of the incident near Bakkhali, South 24 Parganas. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has issued several communications to all coastal States/UTs, including West Bengal, advising them to ensure that transponders remain switched on at all times while vessels are in operation. The States/UTs have also been requested to amend their respective Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) to provide for mandatory installation and operation of transponders, undertake awareness campaigns among fishers on the benefits of the system, and strengthen compliance through appropriate enforcement measures. In addition, the Department of Fisheries regularly conducts training and capacity building programmes for State Fisheries officials, Fisheries Associations, Fisheries Cooperative Societies, boat owners and other stakeholders to promote the effective use of transponders. Following the incident, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India once again reiterated to all coastal States/UTs. the need to put in place necessary arrangements to ensure that transponders remain operational both while fishing vessels are at sea and when they are berthed at fishing harbours.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2774 FOR ANSWER ON 12TH AUGUST, 2026 PUT IN BY SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA REGARDING TRANSPONDER INSTALLATION UNDER VCSS:

STATE-WISE BREAKUP OF TRANSPONDERS INSTALLED UNDER THE VESSEL COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM (VCSS) AGAINST SANCTIONED TARGET OF ONE LAKH VESSELS UNDER PMMSY, AS OF DATE (06.08.2026)

Sl. No	State/UTs	Total requirement (In Numbers)	Total Installed (In Numbers)
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	8305	5823
2.	DAMAN & DIU	1425	1239
3.	GOA	2815	1219
4.	GUJARAT	26,529	16,395
5.	KARNATAKA	12003	8308
6.	KERALA	15684	8872
7.	MAHARASHTRA	12160	10095
8.	ODISHA	4164	2243
9.	PUDUCHERRY	3732	2907
10.	TAMIL NADU	7373	0
11.	WEST BENGAL	3396	2590
12.	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	1814	0
13.	LAKSHADWEEP	550	17
14.	FSI,CIFNET & IN	50	40
Total		1,00,000	59,748
