

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.613  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018

**BAN ON CATFISH**

613: SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in many parts of southern State in the country including Telangana the banned catfish variety is still being reared/cultivated which is very dangerous to other fish species;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the Government has banned the said catfish variety in a bid to save other varieties of fish in India but the same catfish variety is being imported from Bangladesh in an unscrupulous manner; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to strictly ban the said catfish variety in the country particularly in Telangana?

**ANSWER**  
**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE**

**(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)**

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) Reports indicate that the exotic catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) also known as Thai magur/African catfish is being cultured in limited parts of southern States like Karnataka despite efforts made by the State Government in restraining the fish farmers from culturing this species.
- (c)&(d) Based on the recommendations of the National Committee on Introduction of Exotic Aquatic Species into Indian Waters, the State Governments were advised in the year 1997 to take necessary steps to prevent culture of exotic magur (*Clarias gariepinus*), which had been introduced in the country without official sanction. However, no reports have been received regarding unscrupulous import of this species from Bangladesh or elsewhere.

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