

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING & FISHERIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2299
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st JULY, 2018
DECLINE IN SHARK LANDINGS

2299.SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a sharp decline in the share of sharks in the total fish landings and some shark species have completely vanished from the Indian coastal waters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has prepared an action plan for conservation and management of sharks and other vanished species in India;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has banned capturing of some species of fish which are declared as endangered in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other proactive steps taken/ being taken by the Government to save these natural predators from external extinction?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE & FARMER'S WELFARE:

(SMT. KRISHNA RAJ)

- (a) & (b) There was a decline in the share of sharks in the total fish landings during the last three years from 0.67% in 2015 to 0.52% in 2017. There is no evidence for any shark species which have completely vanished from Indian coastal waters. The estimated landings data of shark for the last three years are given below, and the data for the current year (2018) is yet to be estimated.

Year	Catch of sharks (Tons)	Percentage share of sharks in total fish landings
2015	23595	0.67 %
2016	23002	0.62 %
2017	19777	0.52 %

- (c) & (d) Yes, Madam. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has formulated the Guidance on National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA), 2015. Besides, the CMFRI has also prepared a Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) documents on the status of different shark species

and organized stakeholder consultations, awareness campaigns across the country to increase fishermen participation in shark conservation and management of these species.

- (e) In 2001, ten species of sharks are declared protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Exploitation and trade of these species are banned and declared as punishable offences.
- (f) In order to protect and conserve Shark species, ban is imposed by the Government of India on (i) removal of shark fins on board the fishing vessels and (ii) export of shark fins of all species. In addition, regulated fishing practices also help in conservation of sharks, viz. demarcation of Marine Protected Areas, fixing Minimum Legal Size (MLS), gear-specific mesh size regulations, gear restrictions, ban on pair trawling, introduction of by-catch reduction devices and uniform ban on fishing for 61 days in both the coasts.
