

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2022

Protest against Vizhinjam International Sea Port

2282. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of **FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of fishermen protesting against the construction of Vizhinjam International Sea Port at Vizhinjam in Kerala State citing concern on depletion of fish stock and adverse impact on traditional fishermen;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received any representation in this matter from fishermen organizations in the country, State-wise including Kerala;
- (c) if so, the details of action taken in this matter;
- (d) whether the Ministry of Fishing will appoint an expert committee to enquire about the impact of Vizhinjam International Sea Port construction to the fishing community; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): The Government of Kerala reported that a group of fishermen protested against the construction of Vizhinjam Port. The matter has been amicably settled by the State Government and the strike has been called off. The construction of the Vizhinjam port is going on smoothly. The cited reasons were loss of houses due to sea erosion, job losses due to climatic changes etc. State also informed that no representations have been received citing concern on depletion of fish stock and adverse impact on traditional fishermen. Kerala Government also informed that ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has submitted a report stating an increase in fish catch in the Vizhinjam based fishing harbour.

(d) and (e): The Government of Kerala has reported that the Environmental Clearance accorded for the project had been challenged before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi and the NGT has upheld the Environmental Clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It is reported that the NGT in its order has constituted two committees for the continuous monitoring of the clearance and the adherence of the conduct of Grant of clearance. Besides, in the light of concerns raised by the protestors from fishermen community, the Government of Kerala vide its order dated 6th October, 2022 has also constituted an Expert Committee. Hence there is no proposal in the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying to constitute committee for the purpose.
