

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2237
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th March, 2023

Adoption of Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

2237. SHRI. SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has adopted Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps under Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING:

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) and (b): The Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture has been endorsed on 01 February 2021 at the thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in the context of the celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture has been endorsed with two specific objectives, (i) to acknowledge the achievements of the fisheries and aquaculture sector since the endorsement of the Code, and (ii) to gather collective momentum in identifying and tackling the challenges and opportunities ahead to secure the long-term sustainability of the sector. The Declaration acknowledges the need to take action to ensure that aquatic food systems are resilient and meet growing demand for nutritious, safe and affordable food in a sustainable and equitable manner. Government of India is making all efforts for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture both at policy level and through implementation of various schemes and programs.

(c) & (d): The FAO, in its Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture dated 01.02.2021, pressed for stronger action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Within Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), India is addressing the IUU fishing through various fisheries legislations namely, the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) of coastal States/Union Territories. With regard to IUU fishing in the high seas (areas beyond national jurisdiction), this has to be combated through Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). India is already a member of the RFMOs, namely, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), and has recently joined the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). These RFMOs co-ordinate the regulation and management of shared fish stocks and also take action against IUU fishing at regional levels and India take active part in its deliberations.
