

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH AUGUST, 2023

Contamination in Fish

3120. SHRI A. RAJA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that plastic microparticles are found in flesh of fish eaten by humans, according to a new study;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the extent of plastic microparticle contamination in fish and its potential impact on human health, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is collaborating with relevant scientific and environmental organizations to address the issue;
- (d) if so, the details of the outcomes of such collaborations;
- (e) the details of measures taken by the Government to contain the flow of plastic affluent in the water bodies and to launch awareness campaign; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING:

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) and (b): According to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), studies in plastic microparticles in fish flesh are very limited. Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has not undertaken any study on potential impact of plastic microparticle contamination on human health.

(c) to (f): Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MFAHD), is one of the Lead Partnering Country in the International Maritime Organization (IMO)-Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) GloLitter Partnership (GLP) Project with the aim of prevention and reduction of Marine Plastic Litter (MPL) and in particular, sea-based MPL (SBMPL) and to reverse the negative environmental impacts of plastic. ICAR has informed that Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) had organized a National Conference on Marine Debris (COMAD) during April 11-12, 2018. ICAR-CMFRI has developed "Nirmala Dhara." and "Blue Green Brigade" with public participation for collecting and removing household plastic waste. Further, the Government of India and local administrations are implementing various flagship clean-up programmes including *Swachhta Abhiyaan*; *Suchitwa Sagaram*, *Sundara Teeram*; *Swachh Sagar*, *Surakshit Sagar*/'Clean Coast Safe Sea', coastal clean-up campaign, etc., to address the issues related to plastic pollution. In addition, several local/beach level clean-up programmes are being regularly conducted at local levels. The Government of India and other stakeholders are actively participating and implementing the above campaigns and public-private partnership is ensured in these mass clean-up drives.
