

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.*122

TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020

FOREIGN FISHING TRAWLERS IN EEZ

*122. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether boat operators from Kerala have raised issue of presence of foreign fishing trawlers in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the existing legislation for protecting the country's fishing resources;
- (c) whether the intruding foreign vessels attract similar fines as native fishermen do for violations such as monsoon and juvenile fishing;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government will consider a uniform fishing law in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 122 put in by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament for answer on 11-02-2020 regarding “Foreign fishing trawlers in EEZ”

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) A Memorandum dated 06-08-2019 from All Kerala Fishing Boat Operators Association was received, wherein concerns were raised on the issue of presence of foreign fishing vessels in India’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). As present, the respective State Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRA) protect and regulate the fishery resources in the territorial waters of India and the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 regulates fishing by foreign fishing vessels in the maritime zones of India.

(c) & (d) No Sir. The intruding foreign fishing vessels attract fines and penalties for violations prescribed for fishing without license and in contravention of the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act) and the Rules made there under. In case of violations, including monsoon ban and juvenile fishing, the Indian fishing vessels are governed in the territorial waters of the respective States and Union Territories in accordance with the provisions of the concerned Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA).

(e) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, in accordance with the recommendation of the National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017, is considering a uniform fishing law for sustainable development and management of fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The territorial waters (up to 12 nautical miles from the baseline), falling under the jurisdiction of the respective coastal States and Union Territories, are governed by the concerned State Marine Fishing Regulation Act drafted on the lines of the model Marine Fisheries Regulations Bill, circulated by Government of India in 1979.
