

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2021

Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fishing Sector

331. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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 the fishing sector in the country is facing deep crisis after the spread of COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the situation and taken any supportive measures for the struggling fishermen and lakhs of people dependent on this sector for their livelihood, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government will consider a special scheme for compensating the job loss among fishermen, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(Dr. L MURUGAN)

(a) to (c): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, with a view to avoid adverse impact on fisheries due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in the country, had issued advisory to State Governments/Union Territories(UTs) to include fish and shrimp in the list of exempted commodities during lockdown and also allow movement of fish and fish products, fish seed & fish feed for fish-farmers/fishers, aquaculture farms and other commercial establishments like aquarium shop etc. Besides, the Guidelines issued on 10th April, 2020 by the Ministry of Home Affairs also allowed operations of the fishing(marine)/aquaculture industry including feeding & maintenance, harvesting, processing, packaging, cold chain, sale and marketing, hatcheries, feed plants, commercial aquaria, movement of fish/shrimp and fish products, seed/feed and workers, during the lockdown period.

Besides, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a flagship scheme namely “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) - to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India” with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for a period of 5 years from financial year 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories as a part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package. While enhancing fish production and productivity, PMMSY also aims to create huge employment opportunities both direct and indirect in fisheries and aquaculture sector.