

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

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1610  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**Use of Plastic Fishing Equipment**

**1610. Dr. SHASHI THAROOR:**

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 the increasing presence of deeply harmful plastic microparticles in Indian waters, particularly along the North Kerala coast, as found recently in scientific studies;
- (b) whether the Government intends to take specific steps to curb the spread of these particles, which are spread by practices including poor waste management and the use of plastic fishing equipment and are extremely harmful to marine life;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**

**(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)**

(a) Plastic debris is a common and increasing pollutant in the world's oceans including Indian Ocean originating both from land and sea based sources such as runoff from the rivers carrying plastic waste coming from household, industrial and commercial activities, commercial and recreational shipping, fishing activities etc. As per scientific studies, lost and abandoned fishing gear and Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) from fishing boats are also sources of plastic pollution in Indian waters including Kerala.

(b) and (c) India is participating in International Maritime Organization-Food and Agriculture Organization-Norway GloLitter Partnerships (GLP) project as Leading Partnering Country. The said GLP Project is aimed in assisting participating developing countries to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from the maritime transport as well as fisheries sectors, and identifying opportunities for the reduction of plastic uses in both industries. Under GLP, a draft National Action Plan has been prepared by Government of India to prevent and reduce the Marine Plastic Litter (MPL) and in particular Sea-based Marine Plastic Litter to reverse the negative environmental impacts of plastic discard and loss. In addition, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, also intends to create awareness regarding plastic marine pollution under its scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

(d) Does not arise.

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