

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 15**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**12<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

15. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the allegation that draft text on disciplines on fisheries subsidies to be tabled in the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the World Trade Organization is a charter for eradication of the entire small scale, traditional and marginal fishermen communities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Article 05 of the proposed draft dictates cancellation of every single form of subsidy including subsidies on costs of fuel, insurance, price support on catch, subsidies on operating losses and even modernization of vessels and if so, the details thereof including the stand of the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government has introduced the Polluter Pays Principle in the text of the negotiations at WTO for the fisheries sector; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the domestic fisheries sector against the heavily subsidized high sea fishing by developed countries?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

**(a) to (d):** As per mandate of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG) Target 14.6, Members are negotiating discipline on fisheries subsidies in the World Trade Organization (WTO), with a view to adopting an agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing and eliminate subsidies for Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) fishing and for fishing of overfished stocks. Inbuilt flexibilities to use conservation and management measures for continuing subsidies is also part of these disciplines.

The mandate also provides for appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members. In this context, in these negotiations, India has sought policy space to support low income, resource-poor or livelihood fishing or fishing related activities up to our EEZ, to develop and modernize our fisheries sector and for expanding our fishing activities in the high seas.

India has also introduced a document in the WTO on 23 September, 2021, containing 'Polluter Pays' principle for fisheries subsidies negotiations, which proposes moratorium on subsidies by distant water fishing nations for fishing and fishing related activities beyond their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also seeks reduction commitments on distant water fishing capacity by those nations. India is not a distant water fishing nation.

\*\*\*\*\*