

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3526
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th DECEMBER, 2024**

Shortage of Marine Products

3526. Prof. Sougata Ray:

Will the MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government was aware that the fishing community of the country is facing acute shortage of availability of marine products;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the acute shortage of marine products year by year;
- (c) whether the climate change and rising of sea level caused the shortage of marine products and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to check illegal fishing by using heavy machineries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)**

(a) to (c): States/UTs have reported that there is no shortage of available marine fish resources and the marine fish production of India in the past ten years increased by 28.78%. In the year 2022-23 the estimated Marine Fish Production reported as 44.32 Lakh Tonnes against the estimated potential yield for the Indian EEZ is 53.1 Lakh Tonnes. Further, latest scientific report published by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in 2022, about 91.1% of India's Marine Fish Stocks are in healthy condition. The studies indicate that there are inter-annual fluctuations in marine fishery resources due to changes in the climate and environmental variables but the production from marine fishery followed a stable trend during the last 5 years and there is no sign of 'acute shortage,' of marine fishery stocks. The fisheries research institutes under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Government of India have been conducting research on a regular basis to understand the impacts of climate change and develop sustainable, climate-resilient strategies for fisheries and aquaculture.

(d) and (e): The regulatory framework such as Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of fishing by foreign vessels) Act, 1981 and the Marine Fishing Regulation Acts of all maritime states/union territories exists to prevent certain forms of IUU fishing by foreign vessels and Indian vessels respectively. Further, the production of marine products in country is promoted through responsible and sustainable fishing practices and by assisting the fishers and fish farmers under various schemes and programs implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India in close coordination with the State Governments and Union Territories (UT) Administrations, other stakeholders. The 'National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017' has been notified by the Government of India, which provides guiding principles for conservation and optimum utilization of fishery resources. Besides, advisories are also issued to the coastal States/UTs for preventing juvenile fishing and ban on destructive fishing practices such as paired bottom trawling or bull trawling and use of artificial or LED lights for fishing. Besides, for conservation and effective management of fishery resources and also for sea safety reasons the uniform ban on fishing is implemented in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for a period of 61 days from 15th April to 14th June on the East Coast and from 1st June to 31st July on the West Coast. In addition, Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is conducting awareness programs in coastal fishing villages across the country to educate fishers about the FAO-CCRF (Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries) and prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.