

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 55**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

**Ban on Fishing in Pench National Park**

55. SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that large scale fishing business was carried out by tribal people in Pench National Park on the border of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, but after declaration of this place as National Park, fishing business has been banned there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that due to the ban on fishing business imposed on tribal people in Pench National Park, tribal people in large scale have become unemployed;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to lift the ban on fishing business to provide employment to tribal people; and;
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to create a safe corridor in Pench National Park for running fishing business like before so that fishing business can be carried out by tribal community/society without harming the wild animal?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (e) States Governments are empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to issue notification for declaring an area as a National Park, for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wildlife therein or its environment. As per the Act, prior to notification of areas as National Parks, the rights are required to be settled and vested with the State Governments.

As informed by States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, fishing activities were carried out by fishermen in Totladoh reservoir on the border of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Subsequently, prior to the final notification of the Pench National Park, the fishing rights of local fishermen were settled.

As informed by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, compensation of Rs.68 lakhs was awarded to the eligible fishermen to settle their rights for issuance of final notification of the Pench National Park. Since then, fishing

in the Pench National Park is prohibited under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Ministry has not received any proposal from the respective State Governments for alteration of the boundaries of the Pench National Park for facilitating fishing activities.

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