

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1191
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

Socio-Economic Impact on Fishing Communities

1191. Dr. T Sumathy Alias Thamizhachi Thangapandian:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the socio-economic impact on fishing communities in Tamil Nadu and Pudukkottai district due to restricted fishing access in the Palk Bay;
- (b) if so, the details of such assessments;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any alternative livelihood programmes for fishermen in this region, including aquaculture, deep-sea fishing, or seaweed farming and if so, the details and status of implementation of these programmes; and
- (d) whether the Government has collaborated with other departments to introduce technology-based solutions, such as GPS tracking, mobile apps, and real-time weather and border alerts, to assist fishermen in safely navigating fishing zones while avoiding Sri Lankan waters, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has not issued any directives to restrict fishing activities of the fishing communities of Tamil Nadu including Pudukkottai district in the Palk Bay. Besides, the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, has informed that no such assessment is done by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(c): The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of India (GoI) introduced a sub component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing', under the Scheme of 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' to provide Deep Sea Fishing Vessels to the traditional fishermen, their societies, associations, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Fishers Producer Organizations (FPOs) for deep sea fishing. Under the Scheme, a sum of Rs.300 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of India to the State Government of Tamil Nadu during 2017-18 for procurement of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels for traditional fishers and for construction of a fish landing centre at Kunthakal in Rameshwaram District of Tamil Nadu. The DoF, GoI had advised the Govt of Tamil Nadu to give priority while selecting the beneficiaries under the Scheme to the fishermen belonging to 4 Districts of the Palk Bay, (namely Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram). Under this scheme, construction of 71 boats were completed and handed over to the beneficiaries. Construction of 15 boats are at various stages. So far, a sum of Rs.41.08 crore has been released as subsidy to the beneficiaries.

Further, the DoF, Gol is implementing a flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an investment of Rs.20,050 crore for development of fisheries in all States/ Union Territories during a period of 2020-21 to 2024-25. Under PMMSY, the DoF, Gol during the last four financial years (2020-21 to 2024-25) has sanctioned projects worth Rs.1156.15 crore to the State Government of Tamil Nadu with central share of Rs. 448.65 crore towards development of fisheries sector in the state of Tamil Nadu. The administrative sanction accorded under PMMSY to Tamil Nadu includes an amount of Rs.127.71 crore for Establishment of Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu. A total of 136 coastal villages have been identified in Six Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu (Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi) for seaweed cultivation under this project. Ramanathapuram and Pudukottai districts have been designated for the establishment of HUB I and HUB II facilities. At present, 50 percent construction work has been completed in HUB I and Spoke facilities. Under PMMSY scheme, 1812 Nos. of Monolines at a cost of Rs.86.98 lakh, 8140 Nos. of rafts at a cost of Rs. 73.28 lakhs have been distributed for Seaweed cultivation and 43 cages have been distributed to coastal fisher folk at a cost of Rs.28.38 lakh for undertaking open sea cage culture in Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram District, during 2020-21 to 2023-24. The DoF, Gol has also accorded approval for procurement of 50 Deep Sea Fishing Vessels under PMMSY for the fishermen of Tamil Nadu with a total project cost of Rs. 60 Crores.

(d): The Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS) (Transponders) have been developed by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) as a means of two-way communication and support system for fishing vessels, to help in monitoring the fishing vessels and rendering assistance at the time of distress in sea while fishing. The DoF, Gol has sanctioned and released an amount of Rs. 18.01 crore to Government of Tamil Nadu for fitment of 4997 transponders on the mechanized fishing vessels of Tamil Nadu under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Blue Revolution to enhance the safety and security of fishermen while fishing in the sea. The VCSS provides the technology based solutions, including GPS tracking, mobile app called Nabhamitra, and real-time weather and maritime boundary alerts, to assist fishermen in safely navigating fishing zones and to avoid unintentional crossing of maritime boundary. Besides, the DoF, Gol has also earmarked funds under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for provision for safety kits such as Global Positioning System (GPS), life-jackets, lifebuoy, other life-saving appliances, a radar reflector, first-aid box, a set of flares, backup battery, search & rescue beacons etc. for fishers going for fishing at sea. Funds are also earmarked under PMMSY for Communication and /or Tracking Devices like Transmitters (DATs)/ Automatic Identification System (AIS)/ Navigation with Indian Constellation (NAVIC)/Transponders etc. for safety of fishers and fishing vessels.
