

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2810
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th March 2025**

Coastal Development

**2810. Shri Manickam Tagore B:
Shri Vijayakumar Alias Vijay Vasanth:**

Will the MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- a) the measures taken to mitigate habitat destruction caused by coastal development, pollution, and destructive fishing practices; be pleased
- (b) whether the Government working with State Governments and environmental agencies to protect and restore critical fish habitats:
- (c) if so, the impacts of climate change on fisheries such as rising sea temperatures and altered ocean currents and initiatives are in place to help fishermen adapt to changing fish distributions and ensure the long-term viability of the sector,
- (d) the steps taken to curb illegal, unreported and unregulated IUU fishing and extent to which the Government collaborating with international bodies and coastal states to combat this issue and the penalties are in place for those engaged in IUU fishing:
- (e) whether the fisheries sector is often subjected to market fluctuations that affect the price stability for fishers;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to address the issue of price instability and ensure fair and predictable income for fishermen?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)**

(a): The 'National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017 notified by the Government of India, provides guiding principles of conservation and optimum utilization of fisheries resources. The policy also highlights marine environment and pollution issues including micro-plastic and ghost nets. The policy supports regulatory mechanisms to control pollutants from land and sea-based sources, which can be effectively controlled and the ecosystems monitored for pollution related aspects. To combat marine plastic pollution, particularly from fishing and maritime sectors, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has been actively engaged in the global efforts like Glolitter Partnership Project and Reglitter Project both of which are jointly implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Food, and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO).

These projects focus on preventing and reducing Marine Plastic Litter (MPL) from sea-based sources, with an emphasis on addressing abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and wastes from ships. As a Lead Partnering Country (LPC) in the Glolitter Project, Department of Fisheries, Government of India has published its National Action Plan (NAP), which outlines strategic measures to reduce Marine Plastic Litter from Sea-based Sources. To address the issues of destructive fishing, the Government of India has banned fishing methods such as pair or bull trawling and the use of LED or artificial lights for fishing in the EEZ area.

(b) and (c): To ensure long-term viability of the sector and to address the issues related to climate change, protection and restoration of critical habitat, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India is working closely with the State Governments and environmental agencies. These efforts include establishment of artificial reefs along the entire coastline of India, conduct of sea ranching, promotion of seaweed farming, implementation of uniform fishing ban for 61 days during the major fish breeding period and installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawl nets for conservation of turtles, etc. Further, advisories are issued to States/UTs to take measures to prevent juvenile fishing such as implementation of mesh size regulations and minimum legal size of fish under their Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) to ensure sustainable and responsible fishing practices. In addition, to enhance the economic resilience of coastal communities impacted by the climate change, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has identified 100 coastal fishermen villages situated close to the coastline as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV). The activities in the identified coastal fishermen villages are need-based facilities, including common facilities like fish drying yards, fish processing centers, fish markets, fishing jetties, ice plants, cold storages, and emergency rescue facilities. The Government is promoting climate resilient livelihoods like aquaculture, especially the mariculture of seaweed, food and ornamental fishes, bivalves etc through the schemes of the Department of Fisheries in a large way. Additionally, the ICAR-Fisheries Research Institutes have been contributing to enhance inland and marine aquaculture through ongoing research, technology development, and capacity-building with funding support of the Government of India.

(d): 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 have provisions to prevent certain forms of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign vessels and Indian vessels respectively. Further, implementation of ReALCraft, a web-based portal for registration and licensing of fishing vessels, issuance of biometric identity cards to marine fishers and vessel communication and support system supported under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) also help in prevention of IUU fishing. In addition, the 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 need for prevention of IUU fishing. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, is also collaborating with the international bodies, like the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), which works to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean region.

(e) and (f): To address the issue of price instability and ensure fair and predictable income for fishermen, PMMSY has supported 27189 units of fish transportation facilities (refrigerated vehicles, insulated vehicles, two wheelers/ three wheelers), 21 state-of-the-art wholesale fish markets, 202 fish retail markets, 6694 fish kiosks and 5 E-platforms for e-trading and e-marketing of fish and fisheries products in all the States/UTs across the country with a total outlay of Rs. 1654.51 crore. To provide real-time and accurate price information to fishers and fish farmers and to help them to negotiate better price, the Department through the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has launched the 'Fish Market Price Information System' (FMPIS) during 2018-19 to capture and disseminate fish market prices of commercially important marine and inland fishes from 111 wholesale and retail fish markets in 29 States/UTs. Further, the Department of Fisheries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) with an objective to provide a digital platform and empower all stakeholders including traditional fishermen, fish farmers' producer organizations and entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector to buy and sell their products through e-marketplace.
