

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1443
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th JULY, 2025

Penalization of Errant FMFO Units

1443 Shri E T Mohammed Basheer:

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

The details of steps being taken by the Government to devise a foolproof mechanism in coordination with states/UTs to penalize errant Fish Meal Fish Oil (FMFO) units that indulge in procuring juvenile fish or resort to using banned practices like Bull Trawling and LED fishing, beyond just continuous monitoring?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)

The subject matter of 'Fisheries' falls under 'Entry 21' of the State List, under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Government of India has prohibited the harmful fishing methods such as bull or pair trawling and use of artificial lights or LED lights for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India to prevent unsustainable fishing practice, which may harm the marine ecosystem. All the maritime States and Union Territories(UTs) have been advised to take necessary steps to prevent pair or bull trawling and use of LED light for fishing within and beyond the territorial waters. The maritime States and UTs have also been advised (i) to issue necessary Government Orders (GOs) prohibiting destructive fishing methods including pair/bull trawling, use artificial lights/ LED lights for fishing within their territorial waters, (ii) temporarily suspend the registration/license of fishing vessel(s) violating the Government Orders., (iii) cancel the registration/license of such fishing vessel(s) on repeated violations, and (iv) inform Coast Guard and other marine enforcement agencies about such violators, with directions to prevent operation of such fishing vessels.

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India is implementing the uniform, 61-days ban on fishing during monsoon or fish breeding season. The coastal States and UTs are also implementing the fishing ban in their territorial waters aligning with the uniform ban on fishing in the EEZ in order to protect fish during breeding period and prevention of juvenile fishing. Apart from mesh-size regulations, the coastal States like Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa have also implemented the minimum legal size (MLS) under their Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) for selected fish species to prevent fishing of juveniles.

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India registers Fish Meal and Fish Oil (FMFO) units intending to export their products, in accordance with the prescribed registration procedures. This process ensures compliance with quality standards and required statutory approvals - including clearances from the local authority and Pollution Control Board (PCB). Upon verification of requisite documents and assessment of the facility, MPEDA determines the production capacity and issues a registration certificate to the unit. The certificate remains subject to cancellation if the unit is found to be in violation of any of the stipulated conditions under which it was granted.
