

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

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 357  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025

**Fisheries Crisis in Kerala**

**357. Shri K C Venugopal:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fisheries crisis along the coast of Kerala, following accidents involving the cargo vessel MSC ELSA 3 and the container ship MV Wan Hai 503, if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) the estimated loss of damage for the fishermen due to these accidents, including the loss of fishing gears and loss of livelihood for considerable number of days;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide any sort of compensation for the loss of livelihood to the fishermen due to the accidents; and
- (d) whether it is in the notice of the Government the fact that six marine mammal carcasses—four dolphins and two whales have washed ashore on the Alappuzha coast, and if so, whether the Government has carried out any study in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) : The cargo vessel MSC ELSA 3 shipwreck occurred on 24-25 May 2025, approximately 39 nautical miles (Nm) south off Kochi, Kerala whereas the incident of MV Wan Hai 503 happened on 09th June 2025 at around 130 Nm North West of Kochi, Kerala. The Government of Kerala has informed that, in connection with MSC ELSA 3, as an immediate response, the Disaster Management Department of Kerala State had issued advisories to the fishermen on 25th May, 2025, instructing fishermen not to venture within a 20 nautical mile radius of the sunken vessel. The Government of Kerala informed that high-level meeting was convened with the scientists of ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) and representatives of fishermen on 28th May, 2025 to discuss the possible ecological impact and necessary actions to be taken for protection of fishery resources and livelihood of fishermen. Accordingly, on 19.06.2025, a Joint Coordination Committee was constituted by the State Government with representatives from KUFOS, CMFRI, CIFT, State Pollution Control Board, Food safety, National Health Mission, and Coastal Police to review the scenario and to conduct necessary sampling, testing of water, and fish in accordance with the standard protocols. The test reports revealed that the fish samples were all in good condition, and no objectionable smell or flavour was observed, and the pH, Salinity and the conductivity of water samples were within the normal range. The preliminary analysis of water and fish samples revealed that there were no trace or the presence of oil content, no direct evidence to prove the presence of hazardous chemicals, and that the fish samples from the coasts of Ernakulam, Alappuzha, and Kollam, etc. were safe for consumption.

(b) & (c): The Government of Kerala has reported an estimated income loss of ₹106.51 crore, affecting approximately 1,60,417 fisherfolk and allied workers across four coastal districts: Ernakulum, Alappuzha, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram because of the MSC ELSA 3 shipwreck and the associated ban on fishing in 20 Nm of the shipwreck zone. The Government of Kerala has informed that financial assistance @Rs.1000/- per family as interim relief was provided to 1,05,518 marine fishermen families (including 78,498 marine fishermen families and 24,020 allied fishermen families) from the SDRF, along with 6 kg of rice per family for compensating for their livelihood loss.

(d): As per information from Alappuzha district, carcass of one dolphin was washed ashore during the last week of May 2025, and carcasses of another three dolphins and one whale were washed ashore during June 2025. The Government of Kerala has informed that carcasses of all four dolphins and one whale were buried following autopsies under the supervision of officials from the Forest Department. The carcass of another whale, which was highly deteriorated, could not be towed onto shore due to inclement weather and rough seas. The Government of Kerala has further informed that they have not conducted any study in this regard, as the matter related to marine mammals comes under the purview of the Forest Department.

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