

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

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4147  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025

**Post Harvest Losses in Fisheries Sector**

**4147. Shri Manickam Tagore B:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data on post-harvest losses in the fisheries sector due to inadequate cold chain and transport infrastructure;
- (b) whether a nationwide survey is being conducted to identify pollution hotspots such as plastic, sewage or chemical runoff affecting marine and inland fisheries;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is coordinating with the Ministry of Environment to address habitat destruction due to coastal construction and urbanization;
- (d) whether there is any fund or scheme to assist fishers affected by monsoon unpredictability or extreme weather events linked to climate change;
- (e) whether any policy changes are proposed to regulate or phase out deep sea trawling, which has adverse ecological and economic consequences;
- (f) whether the Government has any plans to expand aquaculture zones and offer incentives to counteract the shrinking of fish farming areas due to industrial and urban expansion; and
- (g) whether extension and advisory services are being strengthened to educate fishers about sustainable practices and climate-resilient technologies?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**

**(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)**

(a): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the year 2023-24 has carried out a comprehensive study through the National Productivity Council of India (NPC) an autonomous organization under Ministry of Commerce and Industry to assess post harvest losses in fisheries and aquaculture sector. The studies reveal an average post harvest loss of 9.3% for marine fisheries and 8.84% for inland fisheries. Further, the study reported the high losses during handling and transportation due to inadequate cold chain infrastructure, lack of hygienic handling practices and delays in market access.

(b) and (c) : The Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is conducting nation-wide survey to identify the hotspots for ALDFG in Indian coastal and offshore waters that adversely impact marine fisheries. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping is being used to identify pinpoint and categories hotspots by pollution type-plastic, sewage, or chemical runoff-along major fishing grounds. The findings will support targeted mitigation measures, policy interventions, and awareness programmes to safeguard fish stocks, fishing livelihoods, and overall marine ecosystem health. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India is coordinating with the Central Ministries concerned including the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as and when required in the matter of fisheries development and management.

(d): The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has been implementing various schemes for assisting fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders for development of fisheries and aquaculture including aquaculture crop insurance. The schemes include Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY). Besides, the Kisan Credit facility is also provided to fishers and fish farmers to meet their capital requirements.

(e): Paired bottom trawling or bull trawling and use of LED lights in fishing are banned in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India. All the maritime States/UTs have also 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. Bottom Trawling is a fishing method used to catch the targeted benthic fishes and catch of Non-target species are reduced by the use of by-catch reduction devices, which are selective devices, like the Turtle Excluder Device (TED) used in shrimp Bottom trawls. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has advised to coastal states/UTs to review and amend their respective MFRAs to ensure mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) towards marine turtle conservation. All nine coastal states, namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal have amended their MFRAs to mandate TED use. The UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep do not permit fishing using bottom trawl. The implementation of TED has been included and supported under the PMMSY scheme with 100% financial assistance (60% Central + 40% State).

(f): The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) *inter-alia* provides adoption of a cluster-based approach on the principle of zoning and organized manner to enhance the competitiveness of the fisheries sector, facilitate economies of scale, generate higher incomes, and accelerate the growth and expansion of fisheries and aquaculture in an organized manner.

(g) : The Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is conducting regular onboard training, regional workshops and village-level awareness programmes focusing on responsible fishing methods, bycatch reduction, protection of sensitive habitats, and compliance with marine fishing regulations. FSI is also promoting climate-resilient technologies such as fuel-efficient engines, energy-saving fishing gears, improved fish handling and preservation techniques to reduce post-harvest losses. Scientific advisories on shifting fish distribution patterns, seasonal resource availability and early warning of extreme weather events are disseminated through local contacts to fisher networks. These initiatives aim to enhance the adaptive capacity of fishing communities, ensure resource sustainability and improve livelihoods in the face of climate change.

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