

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1438
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9th DECEMBER, 2025

National Marine Fisheries Census 2025

†1438. Shri Dileshwar Kamait:

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 and the manner in which it differs from the previous editions in terms of scope and methodology;
- (b) the role of digital applications like Vyas Bharat and Vyas Sutra in real time bases georeferenced data collection and monitoring;
- (c) whether such census includes socio-economic profiling, institutional mapping and digital registration of fisherman on the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP); and
- (d) the manner in which data from MFC-2025 is likely to be used for policy decisions, targeted welfare schemes and strengthening fisheries governance?

ANSWER

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

(a): The National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 (MFC-2025) marks a significant expansion in scope and a complete transition to digital methodology compared to earlier editions. Beyond households, fishing craft and gear, the Census now systematically covers aquaculture units, landing centres, boat-building yards, ice plants, freezing and processing facilities, curing and peeling sheds, and wholesale markets. Dedicated electronic schedules also capture Self-Help Groups, Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs), cooperatives and other institutional structures within fishing villages. Unlike previous paper-based rounds, MFC-2025 employs real-time digital enumeration with geo-referencing, uniform national protocols and automated quality checks, thereby generating more accurate, comprehensive and high-resolution datasets.

(b): VyAS Bharat and VyAS Sutra function as the core digital platforms for MFC-2025. They enable real-time data entry with GPS tagging, automated validation of records, and seamless synchronization to central servers. Supervisors and central teams access live dashboards displaying progress and location-specific updates, which facilitate timely oversight and corrective measures. This technology-enabled approach strengthens transparency, accuracy and operational efficiency across all coastal districts.

(c): Yes, Sir. The Census incorporates socio-economic profiling (livelihoods, income categories, education, assets, access to schemes, vulnerability indicators) and institutional mapping (cooperatives, SHGs, FFPOs, service units). Enumerators also facilitate digital registration of fishers on the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP), thereby contributing to the creation of a unified and authenticated national fisher database.

(d): The datasets generated through MFC-2025 will serve as the foundation for evidence-based policymaking and governance. They will inform region-specific management and infrastructure planning, climate-resilience strategies, targeted welfare delivery and beneficiary authentication. In addition, they will enhance programme monitoring and enable more efficient allocation of resources based on geospatial and household-level evidence.
