

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

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION. No.1764  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup>FEBRUARY, 2026

**Review of Stakeholders on Draft Fisheries/EEZ Rules**

**1764. Shri Sudama Prasad:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed stakeholder and legal submissions on the draft fisheries Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) rules and the penalty clauses flagged as conflicting with existing Acts;
- (b) the concrete changes (if any) the Government proposes to make to address the concerns raised by legal experts and fishing communities; and
- (c) whether a public consultation timeline and finalization schedule can be tabled in due time and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OFFISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**

**(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)**

(a) to (c) The Government of India has notified the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Rules, 2025, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025. This landmark initiative aims to empower traditional and small-scale fishermen, Fisheries Cooperative Societies, and Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) to expand operations, harness untapped resources through deep-sea fishing, and access new income streams through processing and exports, thereby enhancing livelihoods. The Department of Fisheries has conducted a series of meetings from February to September 2025 with different stakeholders, including Central Government Ministries/Departments, coastal security agencies, coastal States/UTs, research institutes, fishermen associations, cooperatives, etc., to get their inputs and suggestions. Besides, the draft of the EEZ Rules was also placed in the public domain for a period of one month, inviting suggestions and comments from the general public and stakeholders. The period of public consultation was even extended by another 15 days, as requested by some states and stakeholders. The Draft Rules were subsequently updated based on the relevant inputs received through stakeholder consultations. The Rules are framed after extensive stakeholder consultations and legal vetting by the Ministry of Law & Justice.

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