

Seventeenth Loksabha

an&gt;

**Title: Regarding export of seafood and protection of Aquaculture sector in the country.**

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. India is the world leader of seafood exports and AP -- with 39 per cent share -- is the highest producer of seafood and shrimp in the country. In 2021-2022, India exported 13.69 lakh MT of seafood worth US \$7.76 billion, an increase of 32 per cent over 2020 and it is an all-time high export by value, and the US with 44 per cent and China with 16 per cent are the main markets for India. But this year, import restrictions put by China due to COVID and US importing shrimps from Ecuador has really hit hard the aquaculture, particularly shrimp exports. Since AP is the largest producer and exporter of shrimp -- also known as prawns -- the aqua farmers are suffering like anything.

Fluctuations in the international market crashed the price of prawns and exporters and processors, citing fluctuations in the international market reduced the price of 100-count shrimp to Rs. 160 - Rs.180 per kg., which is not at all viable. The viability for a 100-count shrimp is Rs. 280. On the other hand, the price of feed has gone up. This proved to be a double whammy on the aqua farmers and needs to be addressed, and increase in lease price of ponds, labour cost, etc. has only added fuel to the fire.

In view of the above and to protect the struggling aquaculture sector, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to immediately intervene to hold talks with the importers of other countries and ensure that our aqua products are exported smoothly with remunerative price, and also request to direct MPEDA to hold meetings with the Indian exporters and aqua farmers without any further delay to resolve the problems. Thank you, Sir.