

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

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1981  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2023

**Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**

**1981. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:**

Will the Minister of **FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**  
**मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for finalizing the draft guidelines for Regulation of Fishing by Indian Flagged Fishing Vessels in the High Seas, 2022 on the basis of the comments received from the stakeholders, if so, the details thereof including the time-frame set for finalization;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the objections by fishermen, scientists as well as peoples representatives against large corporate capital investments in the sector, if so, the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether it is true that the Government has not considered the precarious situation of tuna stocks as published by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission while preparing the draft guidelines, if so, the reason therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government will consider deleting the provision of allowing Partnership Firms Private & Public Ltd. Companies, Public Ltd. Companies and Corporations in the sector from the draft, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**  
**(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)**

(a) and (b): "Draft Guidelines for Regulation of Fishing by Indian Flagged Fishing Vessels in the High Seas, 2022" were prepared by the Expert Committee constituted by Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, and the same have been updated following due consultation process with the stakeholders.

(c): The Government has taken due consideration of the status of tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean as estimated by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission while preparing the draft Guidelines.

(d): Fishing in the High Sea (international waters or areas beyond national jurisdiction or ABNJ) is mostly a commercial venture, wherein all eligible entities including Indian citizen, Indian Partnership Firms, Private & Public Ltd. Companies and Corporations shall be allowed. However, intent of the Government is to promote traditional fishermen for utilization of fishery resources in the ABNJ by Indian fishing vessels, subject to compliance of relevant provisions in the International Agreements/ Arrangements concerning fisheries in the high seas and with proper monitoring and communication mechanisms to safe guard coastal security and safety of fishermen at sea.

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