

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 558
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH FEBRUARY, 2024

Decline in Sea Fish Volume

558. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

- (a) whether certain popular varieties of sea fish caught by fishermen are declining rapidly in numbers;
- (b) if so, the details of the major contributing factors leading this decline in sea fish volume; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the numbers do not decline below a certain threshold which may result in the extinction of certain culinary varieties of fish?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a) : As per the latest study undertaken by the ICAR-CMFRI, the marine fish stocks of the Indian waters are in good health and 91.1% of the 135 fish stocks evaluated in different regions during 2022 were found sustainable. The fishing efforts and fish landings are quite in usual tandem, and as such the decline in fish volume is not noticed.
- (b) : Does not arise.
- (c) The potential of fishery resources are estimated by the committee of experts constituted by Department of Fisheries, Government of India in regular intervals to ascertain the status of fish stocks and revalidation of potential of fishery resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). As per the latest report of the Expert Committee for Revalidation of potential Fishery Resources (2018) the marine fishery resources in the EEZ are estimated at 53.1 lakh tones. Against this potential, the average harnessing of marine fishery resources was about 37.88 lakh tons during the last 5 years (2017-18 to 2021-22), which is below the potential yield of 53.1 lakh tones of fishery resources in Indian EEZ. The Government of India has taken several steps to increase the fish stocks and improving the marine ecosystem such as installation of Artificial Reefs and promotion of sea ranching, mariculture including seaweed cultivation etc. under the “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)”. Besides, in order to ensure sustainable fisheries measures have been implemented such as (i) Implementation of 61 days uniform ban on fishing in the Indian EEZ annually, (ii) Ban on destructive fishing practices in the Indian EEZ viz. paired bottom trawling or bull trawling and use of artificial and LED lights in fishing, (iii) Declaration of marine protected areas (MPAs) and protection of endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species (iv) Installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawl nets, fishing gear and mesh-size regulations, minimum legal size (MLS) of fishes, spatial-temporal restrictions, zonation of fishing areas by the coastal States/UTs, etc.
