

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2617
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
FISHING POLICIES
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fishing and Deep Sea Fishing Policies;
- (b) the details of the recommendations made by the Murari Committee;
- (c) the present position of recommendations in terms of acceptance and implementation;
- (d) the number of trawlers operating at present;
- (e) the details of tenure of their licence;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to give new licences; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Previous deep sea fishing policies of charter, joint venture, lease and test fishing have been rescinded in 1996. A Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy has been announced in November, 2004 to deal with all matters of development of marine fisheries including deep sea fishing in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

(b) & (c): A technical Committee to review the deep sea fishing policy under the chairmanship of Shri P. Murari was constituted in March, 1995. This Committee submitted its recommendation to the Government in 1996. The recommendations were examined by the Government and with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in November, 1996 most of the recommendations of the Murari Committee were accepted with minor changes. One of the recommendations of the Murari Committee was to review the deep sea fishing policy periodically say 3-5 years. Accordingly, an Expert Group to review the deep sea fishing policy under the chairmanship of Deputy Director General (Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research was constituted in December, 1999. Pending recommendations of this Expert Group and the scenario of import of certain deep sea fishing vessels under the EXIM Policy 2000-01, an interim measure was taken by the Government by announcing on 1st November, 2002 Guidelines for operation of deep sea fishing vessels in Indian EEZ through an executive order. Applications for import, acquisition and operation of second hand fishing vessel in Indian EEZ was considered and so far, 25 Indian companies have been allowed to acquire 95 No. of vessels under the deferred payment. The Guidelines of 1.11.2002 were amended in 6.9.2004.

(d): Presently, about 87 number of deep sea fishing vessels are in operation in Indian EEZ. Out of which 60 vessels are shrimp trawlers mainly being operated from Visakhapatnam in the east coast. In addition to this, about 27 vessels permitted to operate in the EEZ under the Guidelines are in operation as per the report of the Coast Guard Headquarters.

(e), (f) & (g): No tenure has been fixed for the Indian owned vessels. However, the Letter of Permission can be cancelled on violation of any terms and conditions by these vessels. An Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee has been constituted by the Government to consider issues relating to granting of new Letters of Permission for deep sea fishing vessels in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.