

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2546  
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010  
MARINE FISHERIES ACT  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to enact the Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act,2009 to regulate fishing activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation; (C) whether various State Governments have opposed the proposed legislation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government in this regard; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be finalized?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Agriculture has drafted the Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Bill, 2009 to regulate fishing activities in the Maritime Zones of India beyond the territorial waters of the country. The main features of the proposed `Bill` inter-alia include: i) regulation of fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), (ii) conservation and sustainable use of fish, (iii) maintenance of law and order in the maritime zones of India, (iv) addressing livelihood related concerns of fish-workers, and (v) notification of fisheries management plans.

(c) to (e): Some State Governments and other stakeholders have given suggestions with respect to the provisions of the draft bill.

A series of consultations were organized by this Ministry to discuss the various provisions of the `draft Bill` with stakeholders including Fishermen Association, NGOs/ State Governments etc. The concerns, views and suggestions expressed during the course of such consultations will be considered when the bill is finalised.