

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3243  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011  
DEEP SEA FISHING  
Abdulrahman Shri ;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Murari Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of recommendations made by the Committee;
- (d) the reasons for the stagnation of the deepsea fishery sector in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and
- (e) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to give a fresh impetus to deep sea fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b) A technical Committee to review the deep sea fishing policy was constituted in March, 1995 under the chairmanship of Shri P. Murari. This Committee submitted its recommendations to the Government in 1996.

(c) The major recommendations of the Murari Committee inter alia include cancellation of permits issued for fishing through joint venture/charter/ lease/test fishing; demarcation of area of fishing for traditional and mechanized sector; declaration of fleet size for different fishing grounds based on the maximum sustainable yield (MSY); enactment of deep-sea fishing regulations; strengthening and upgradation of Coast Guard; financial assistance for upgradation of technological skills of traditional sector; upgradation of Fishery Survey of India; infrastructure developments in setting up fishing harbours, cold storages, ice factories, fish processing facilities, fish meal and feed manufacturing units for value addition; training to fishermen/fisherwomen in handling new equipments; and review of deep-sea fishing policy every 03 to 05 years etc.

(d) & (e) As per the Report of the Revalidation of Marine Fisheries Resources of 2000, the marine fisheries resource potential was estimated at about 3.92 million tonnes. The marine fish production over the last few years has shown a variable trend and remained stable between 2.9 to 3.1 million tonnes. An 'Expert Group' was constituted in August 2008 to review the existing deep sea fishing guidelines in Indian EEZ. Another 'Expert Committee' has been constituted in June, 2009 to revalidate the potential yield estimates of marine fishery resources on the basis of research, fisheries resources survey and exploratory work conducted in the Indian EEZ, to estimate the potential that could be harvested on a sustainable basis from different depths/ zones / regions of the Indian EEZ and to estimate the number of each category of resource specific vessels / fleet size for sustainable harvest of potential marine fishery resources available in the Indian EEZ. Besides, the Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries regularly deliberates on issues relating to deep-sea fisheries.