

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3254  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011  
NATIONAL FISHERMEN WELFARE FUND  
Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether the Government has instituted a National Fishermen Welfare Fund;
- (b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof;
- (c) the details of applications received and disbursal of funds during the last two years;
- (d) whether the Government is likely to help the fishermen and workers on fishing vessels who lost their lives at sea or were imprisoned in foreign countries; and
- (e) the steps proposed to widen the ambit of the fund?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) No, Madam, there is no such fund. However, Centrally Sponsored 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen is implemented with the objective of providing basic civic amenities i.e. construction of fishermen houses, tubewells for drinking water and community hall/centre as a common recreation/working place and socio-economic security to fishermen such as group accident insurance and financial support during fishing ban period. In addition, there is a provision for training of fishermen to update their knowledge and skills. The Scheme is demand driven and grants are released against the viable proposals submitted by the State Governments. Funds released in 2009-10 and 2010-11 under the Scheme are Rs 36.23 crore and Rs 41.94 crore respectively.

(d) & (e) Under the component "Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen", fishermen are insured for Rs 1.00 lakh in case of death/total permanent disability and for Rs 50,000/- in case of partial permanent disability. The Government of India provides one time ex-gratia amount of `3.00 lakh to the next of kin of each fisherman held in captivity in Pakistan as well as an outright grant of Rs 30,000/ for smaller fishing boats and rs 5.0 lakh for trawlers to the owner(s) of each seized boat/trawler under the Prime Minister's Relief Package. Besides, there is a scheme of Soft Loan Package which provides a capital subsidy of 30% of the cost of each vessel subject to a ceiling of Rs 6.00 lakh to each vessel owner for replacement of the fishing vessels seized in Pakistan.