

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4258
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted an Empowered Committee on Fisheries;
- (b) if so, the details and composition thereof alongwith the objectives of the said Committee; and
- (c) the steps taken to optimize the exploitation of Marine Fisheries resource in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. An Inter-ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries (EC) has been constituted. The composition and terms of reference of the EC are at Annexure.

(c) For the sustainable exploitation of Marine Fisheries resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country, the Letter(s) of Permission (LOPs) are being issued to eligible Indian companies and firms for acquisition and operation of resource specific deep-sea fishing vessels. So far, 84 such LOPs have been issued to 20 Indian companies/firms for acquisition and operation of different categories of resource specific vessels. In addition, under a Scheme of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), assistance is also being provided for conversion of trawlers into tuna long liners. So far, 225 such trawlers have been converted to tuna long liners under the scheme for fishing operations in the EEZ.