

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4899
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
ILLEGAL FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign vessels illegally enter Indian territorial waters and India's Exclusive Economic Zone for fishing as per a study done by University of British Columbia;
- (b) if so, whether such illegal infiltration of foreign vessels not only pose a serious security threat but also cause huge economic loss to the country;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government or Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) have received any complaints about foreign vessels illegally fishing in Indian waters or about violation of provisions of LoP (Letter of Permit) Scheme of the Government of India since the inception of the scheme;
- (e) if so, the details of the complaints and the action taken thereof;
- (f) whether Government proposes to review the present LoP Scheme to include some additional provisions in it and also to make it mandatory for LoP vessels to land fish at the base port in India with a view to prevent malpractice by foreign vessels and exploitation of Indian marine resources; and (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) to (c): The Government issues letter of Permission (LoP) to Indian entrepreneurs allowing them to fish in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The LoP is issued on the recommendation of an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries in accordance with the existing deep sea fishing guidelines.

The Indian Coast Guard monitors implementation of the guidelines of LoP on ground and apprehends any foreign vessel found indulging in illegal fishing in the Indian EEZ and appropriate action is taken as per existing law & guidelines. The Government is aware of a study done by University of British Columbia which primarily raises the issues of high fisheries subsidies. India has expressed strong reservations in the World Trade Organisation about the inaccuracies of data and findings of the said study.

(d) & (e): Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) maintains a list of vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. There is no Indian vessel listed in the IOTC list of IUU vessels.

The Government's deep sea fishing policy prohibits IUU fishing. Whenever a complaint is received on violation of deep sea guidelines, the Government takes appropriate actions that include suspension/cancellation of LoP.

(f) & (g): The Government through Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee and specific Expert Groups/ Committees regularly reviews the deep sea guidelines and polices to provide enabling environment for the growth of deep sea fisheries in the country.