

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2722
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
DEEP SEA FISHING VESSELS
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deep-sea fishing vessels actually fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as on date;
- (b) whether there has been a steep fall in fishing during the current year as compared to the last year;
- (c) if so, the approximate catch during the last three years and the current year, year- wise;
- (d) the constraints in improving the deep-sea fishery sector;
- (e) whether entrepreneurs have demanded more flexible conditions to operate into the EEZ; and
- (f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to address their problems?

Answer

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

(a) : Ministry of Agriculture issues Letter of Permit (LoP) allowing fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). As on date there are 87 valid LoPs and the actual number of vessels engaged in fishing varies from time to time.

(b) & (c); The current year landings data is not available. However, last three years landing figures does not show any indication about declining trend as given below:

	(million tonnes)		
Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Landings	2.978	3.104	3.225

(d) 66 (e) : Non availability of resource specific Deep Sea Fishing Vessels and trained crew to manage these vessels and deep sea fishing operations are major constraints in the exploitation of deep sea resources. Deep Sea fishery associations have been suggesting measures to streamline existing procedures for grant of LoP such as uniform check lists by all concerned agencies/Departments, increase in duration of Voyage clearance, speedy grant of radio licence, security clearance by concerned Ministry/Department, removal of ceiling on number of vessels that can be acquired etc.

(f) : The Government, through an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries (EC) regularly reviews the deep sea fishing guidelines and policies to provide an enabling environment for the growth of deep sea fisheries. Besides, the Government has constituted a Sub-Committee to suggest measures to streamline procedures for grant of LoP and an Expert Group to revalidate marine fishery resource potential.

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