

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1765  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009  
REGISTRATION OF BOATS BY MMD  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) is empowered to register boats above 20 metres only; and
- (b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Union Government in this regard and to make the owners entitled for diesel subsidy, insurance and other benefits to those boats also less than 20 metres?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): Principal Officers and Surveyors-in-charge of MMDs are notified registrars of ships in their respective jurisdiction and in particular with reference to fishing boats. These registrars have been notified to register deep sea fishing vessels which are boats of over 20 meters only as defined under the guidelines issued by Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

(b): For fishing vessels less than 20 meters in length, a total of 127 registrars across the country have been notified on 24.6.2009. As regards subsidy for diesel, insurance and other benefits, the Government has taken the following steps:-

(i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) "Development of Marine fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations" Government of India provides rebate on HSD oil used by the motorized fishing boats below 20 meter length. The rebate is equivalent to 50% of the sales tax relief granted by the State on HSD oil for the fishing purposes. However, Central assistance is limited to Rs 3.0 per litre with a capacity of 500 litre per boat per active fishing month. The rebate is admissible to the boats registered before 10th Plan and owned by fishers of BPL categories. The scheme is being implemented through States/UTs.

(ii) Under the CSS "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen" fishermen are covered under the group accident insurance with an annual premium of Rs. 28/- per fishermen equally shared by the Central and the State Governments. The benefits include Rs.1,00,000/- in case of death/ total permanent disability and Rs. 50,000/- on partial disability due to an accident.

(iii) In order to provide assistance to the fishermen during the lean season (fishing ban period) saving cum relief component has also been implemented by the Government of India under CSS "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen". The fishermen contribute Rs.600/- over a period of 9 months while an equivalent amount is contributed by the Centre as well as State Government. Hence the total amount of Rs. 1800/- is disbursed back to the fishermen in equal instalment of Rs.600/- each during the 3 lean months.