

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3891
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
OVER EXPLOITATION OF COASTAL WATERS
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the fish and aquatic wealth along the coast of Tamil Nadu has decreased to a large extent forcing the fishermen to trespass international boundary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check unsustainable fishing practices and over exploitation of coastal waters including bottom trawling?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The increase in fish catch from the coast of Tamil Nadu during last few years indicate that fishery resources have not depleted along the coast of Tamil Nadu. The fish catch from the coast of Tamil Nadu has increased from 5.34 lakh tonnes in 2008-09 to 6.5 lakh tonnes in 2011-12 for which latest data is available.

(c): Fisheries in territorial waters is the subject matter of coastal States/ Union Territories (UTs) and are governed by Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs), which have provisions to regulate fishing practices. Besides, advisories have been issued to Coastal States/UTs by the Central Government, wherein States/UTs have been advised to prevent bottom trawling, juvenile fishing and other unsustainable fishing practices. In addition, Government also organizes regular training and awareness programmes for disseminating information on sustainable exploitation of fishery resources for fishermen and other stakeholders.