

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
MARINE FISHERIES ACT
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to enact the Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act, 2009 to regulate fishing activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;
- (c) whether various State Governments have opposed the proposed legislation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Union Governments in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Agriculture has drafted the Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act, 2009 to regulate fishing activities in the Maritime Zones of India beyond the territorial waters of the country, and circulated the draft to the coastal states/Union Territories for their views.
- (b) The salient features of the proposed `Act` are: i) requirement of permission for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and ii) notification of fisheries management plans.
- (c) to (e) Some State Governments have expressed concerns that the proposed Act may be detrimental to the interests of traditional fishermen; there is likely to be a conflict of jurisdiction between the Central and State Governments; the proposed Act may lead to fishing by foreign vessels in the Indian EEZ etc.

The proposed Act seeks to regulate fisheries beyond the territorial waters, thus there is no infringement upon the jurisdiction of State Governments. However, all the concerns expressed by the States will be carefully examined and addressed, and the Act will be finalized only after detailed consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders.