

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5661
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
DEEP SEA FISHING
Chandrakasi Shri M.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and the terms of reference of the Dr. Meena Kumari Commission;
- (b) whether the aspects of livelihood and other interests of fishermen were taken into account while appointing the Committee and framing the terms of reference for the Committee;
- (c) whether the Government has ever devised any schemes or projects and implemented the same for promoting deep-sea fishing by our own fishermen, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the States/UTs will be consulted before taking a decision on the implementation Report of the Dr. Meena Kumari Commission report; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE: (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) The Expert Committee for comprehensive review of deep-sea fishing policy and guidelines was constituted under the chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meenakumari, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), ICAR on 01.8.2013 with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To undertake review of Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy of 2004 and to suggest a new Policy,
- (ii) To review existing Guidelines for deep-sea fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ),
- (iii) To suggest full exploitation of catch potential in EEZ and international waters, and
- (iv) To examine status of compliance of regional and global requirements of management and regulation of marine fisheries including Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and proposed FAO's Guidelines of Flag State responsibilities.

(b) The livelihood aspects and other interests of fishermen are addressed in the Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy, 2004, which has been reviewed.

(c) Followed by the declaration of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 1976, which facilitated exploration, exploitation and utilization of marine living resources in the sea around India extending to 200 nautical miles, and realizing that most of the deep sea fishery resources were beyond the conventional fishing limit, various policies were introduced by the Government of India from time to time, viz. 1981 Charter Policy, revised 1986 Charter Policy, 1991 Policy of Joint Venture, Test Fishing and Leasing. However, on the recommendations of Review (Murari) Committee on deep sea fishing in 1996, the government rescinded all the earlier policies on deep-sea fishing; and subsequently in Oct 2004, announced a Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy with the objectives (1) to augment marine fish production of the country up to a sustainable level in a responsible manner so as to boost export of sea food from the country and also to increase per capita fish protein intake of the masses, (2) to ensure socio-economic security of the artisanal fishermen whose livelihood solely depends on this vocation, and (3) to ensure sustainable development of marine fisheries with due concern for ecological integrity and biodiversity.

(d) & (e) The report of the Expert Committee has been placed on the website of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture on 20.8.2014 for inviting comments from all stakeholders including states/UTs, fishermen associations and fishing boat owners associations. Besides, the Union Agriculture Minister has convened a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the Coastal States and Administrators of Union Territories on 18th March 2015 to discuss the issues related to Marine Fisheries including the Report of the Expert Committee, and the concerns of States/ UTs, fishermen associations and other stakeholders on the Expert Committee Report have been noted.