

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6361
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES
Natterjee Shri J. Jayasingh Thiyagaraj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the various methods adopted by the Government to boost the Fishing Industry;
- (b) whether the Government has implemented insurance scheme for fishermen to protect their hamlets and fishing boats;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to establish desalination plants in the seashore of Tuticorin, as there is huge drinking water problem, and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Under the Central Sector Schemes 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest operation' and 'Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture' financial assistance is extended for establishment of fishing harbours, fish landing centres, fish processing, preservation storage infrastructure, fish marketing and transport infrastructure, and for aquaculture development respectively. The National Fisheries Development Board also provides financial assistance for development of fisheries for intensive aquaculture in ponds, hygienic fish marketing, ornamental fisheries, training etc. Government has recently simplified the Guidelines for Fishing Operations in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone in order to promote the operation of deep-sea fishing vessels. The revised Guidelines have been issued on 12.11.2014, which allow fishing vessels of 15 meter overall length and above to venture in to deep-sea for fishing after obtaining a Letter of Permission from the Government.

(b)&(c) Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen' with a component on Group Accident Insurance for active Fishermen. Under this component, fisher folk/licensed/identified or registered with the State/UT Governments would be insured for Rs.2,00,000/- against death or permanent total disability, Rs. 1,00,000/- for partial permanent disability and a cover of Rs. 10,000/-towards hospitalization expenses in the event of an accident. The scheme does not have any provision to insure hamlets and fishing boats.

(d) Under the Central Sector Scheme 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen', financial assistance is also extended for fishermen housing and drinking water facility, such as tubewell for every 20 houses. The scheme does not have any provision to establish desalination plants.