

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1090
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
MURARI COMMITTEE
V.S. SIVAKUMAR;VAIKO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Murari Committee has submitted its report on fishing to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of terms of reference alongwith the name of members;
- (c) the details of recommendations implemented partially implemented;
- (d) whether the Government have decided to appoint another Committee on fishing;
- (e) if so, me terms of reference;
- (f) whether the fishermen including the traditional fishermen are planning to start agitation throughout the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the preventive steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIHUKUMDEONARAYANYADAV)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The details are given in Annexure-I.
- (c): The details are given in Annexure-n.
- (d): An Expert Group has been constituted for Formulation of a Comprehensive Policy on Marine Fisheries.
- (e) The Terms of Reference are at Annexure-IH
- (f) This Ministry has no information about any proposed agitation.
- (g) Question does not arise.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I as referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1090 answered on 1.3.2000

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

- i To review the potential and distribution of fishery resources in the Indian FEZ in consultation with experts and on the basis of available reports;
- ii To ascertain the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by various sectors, namely, traditional sector, mechanised boats sector and deep sea fishing vessels;
- iii To ascertain the present status whether the operation of vessels under the new deep sea fishing policy or under charter has affected the traditional fishermen and the marine ecology adversely;
- iv To suggest the lines on which the future development of the deep sea fishing sector should be charted; and
- v To suggest measures for protecting the interests of traditional fishermen and for reducing the areas of conflict between traditional fishermen and deep sea fishing vessels.
- vi The Committee would be required to take evidence from various associations of traditional fishermen, mechanised boat operators and deep sea fishing trawlers.

vii The committee would submit its report by 30th September, 1995

Annexure-I

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Shri P. Murari, (Retd. IAS),
Advisor to President of FICCI,
New Delhi. Chairman
2. Shri S.N. Vekaria,
Member of Parliament Member
3. Maj. Sudhir Sawant,
Member of Parliament Member
4. Shri Ram Naik,
Member of Parliament Member
5. Shri Satyanarayana Dronamraju,
Member of Parliament Member
6. Shri Oscar Pernp.ndes,
Member of Parliament Member
- 7 Dr. Kartikeswar Patra,
Member of Parliament Member
8. Smt. (Dr.) Padma Nanimalvar,
Member of Parliament Member
9. Prof. Amal Dutta,
Member of Parliament Member
- Shri Harish Narayan Prabhu Zantye,
Member of Parliament Member
- Prof. K.V. Thomas,
Member of Parliament Member
- Shri Manoranjan Bhakta,
Member of Parliament Member
- Shri D.J. Tandel,
Member of Parliament Member
- Shri John F. Fernandes,
Member of Parliament Member
15. Shri Rajubhai Parmar,
Member of Parliament Member
16. Shri Md. Salim,
Member of Parliament Member
- Shri K. Rama Krishna,
Member of Parliament Member
18. Shri Unnnadi Paidi Raju,
President,
Distt. Fishermen Coop. Society
Visakhapatnam. Member
- Shri P.C. Appa Rao. Member
President,
Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Fishing
Boat Operators Association, Visakhapatnam.
- Shri Dilip N. Pagdhare,
Chairman,
Mahim Machchimar Vividh Karyakari
Sahakari Society Ltd.,
Mumbai. Member
- Shri Thomas Kocherry,
President,
National Fisheries Action Committee
Against Joint Ventures,
Kochi. Member
- Dr. C. Babu Rao, Member
President.
Association of Indian Fishery Industries,
Visakhapatnam.
23. Shri P. Jairaj Kumar, Member

Vice President,
Deep Sea Fishing Industry Association,
New Delhi.

Shri Sunil Sud. IAS Member
Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
New Delhi.

Smt. Promilla Issar, IAS Member
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MPPI).
New Delhi.

26. Shri A. Kannan, Member
Dy. Director General, DG of Shipping
Mumbai.

27. Shri K.B. Pillai, IAS Member
Chairman,
Marine Products Export Development Authority
(MPEDA).
Kochi.

28. Ms Ghazala Meenai, Member
Dy. Secretary, Coast Guard (CG),
Min. of Defence.
New Delhi

Dr. S.A.H. Abidi, Member
Director, Dept of Ocean Development (DOD)
New Delhi.

Dr. P.V. Dehadrai, Member
Dy. Director General (Fy.)
Indian Council of Agricultural research,
Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi.

Dr. V. Sriramchandra Murthy, Member
Sr. Scientist,
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi.

32. Shri A.D. Desai, IAS Member
Secretary (Fy.),
Govt. of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

33. Dr. S.V. Joshi. IAS Member
Secretary (Py.),
Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

34. Shri G.P. Sevalia. IAS Member
Secretary (Fy.),
Govt. of Goa, Panjim.

35. Shri K.P. Pandey, IAS Member
Secretary (Fy.),
Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore.

36. S/Shri Chandran, IAS, D. Ravi. IAS,, Member
Secretary (Fy.),
Govt. of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

37. Shri M. Ahmed, IAS Member
Secretary (Fy.),
Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Madras.

38. Shri M.C. Mahapatra, IAS Member
Principal Secretary (Fy.)
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

39. Shri H.S. Sarkar, IAS Member
Secretary (Fy.),
Govt. of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

40. Shri R.K. Tripathi, IAS Member
Secretary (Fy.),
Govt. of West Bengal, Calcutta.

41. Dr. V.S. Somvanshi, Member-Secretary
Director General,
Fishery Survey of -India
Mumbai.

Annexure-II

Annexure II as referred in part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1090 answered on 1.3.2000

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DEEP SEA FISHING POLICY AND ACTION TAKEN

Recommendation No. 1: All permits issued for fishing by joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing should immediately be cancelled subject to legal processes as may be required.

Action Taken: Cases of Joint Ventures (JV) and Leasing, where violations of the Act, Rules or Terms and Conditions were reported, were referred to M/o Law, Justice and Company Affairs. On their advice, permits for two vessels under leasing have been cancelled. Under the scheme of Charter, no permits are valid.

Recommendation No. 2: No renewal, extension or new licenses/permits be issued in future for fishing to joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing vessels.

Action Taken: No new permits/extension or renewal of permits/permission under Joint Venture, Leasing, Test Fishing and Charter have been issued.

Recommendation No. 3; All licences/ permits for fishing may be made public documents and copy thereof made available for inspection in the office of the registered authority.

Action Taken: Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai has been designated as the authority to keep the copies of all valid permits/permissions under JV, Leasing and Chartering as public documents. The copies of permits/permissions were provided to FSI for the same.

Recommendation No. 4: The areas already being exploited or which may be exploited in the medium term by fishermen operating traditional craft or mechanised vessels below 20 m size should not be permitted for exploitation by any vessels above 20m. length except currently operated Indian vessels which may operate in the current areas for only three years subject to the recommendations 1 & 7

Action Taken: Action is being taken.

Recommendation No. 5: Since the Indian mechanised boats below 20 m size have the capacity to fish in depths up to about 70-90 m on the west coast, the distance from the shore represented by 150m depth line should be out of bounds for all vessels of more than 20m length except vessels mentioned at para 4. Where the 150m depth zone is less than 100 nautical miles from the shore, the distance up to 100 nautical miles should be reserved for Indian vessels less than 20 m length. On the east coast, starting from Kanyakumari, Indian vessels below 20 m size would have exclusive access up to 100 m depth or 50 nautical miles from the shore whichever is farther except relaxation in Para 4. The depth zone would also be defined by coordinates indicating distance from the shore. Distance will be determined by National Hydrographic Office/Coast Guard/Fishery Survey of India.

Action Taken: Action has been initiated to define depth zones by coordinates.

Recommendation No. 6: In regard to Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep groups of islands, a distance of 50 nautical miles from the shore would be reserved exclusively for Indian vessels below 20 m length with proviso at para 4. Further, if so required, the limit would be defined taking into account the need to keep waters between islands reserved exclusively for Indian vessels, even if some portions fall beyond the limit of 50 nautical miles.

Action Taken: As under Recommendation No. 5 above.

Recommendation No. 7: In the area open to the vessels above 20 m length, resource specific vessels for tuna and tuna like fishes, squids and cuttle fish, deep sea fin-fishes in mid-water or pelagic regions and oceanic tuna may be allowed for exploitation by tuna long lining, tuna purse seining, squid jigging and mid-water trawling, provided these are de facto Indian owned registered vessels. The Indian owners should account for at least 51% debt as well as equity.

Action Taken: An Expert Group has been set up to formulate Comprehensive Policy for Marine fisheries. The terms of reference of the Expert Group inter alia are to suggest the number of resource specific vessels to be deployed in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the country.

Recommendation No. 8: The fleet size for different fishing grounds may be fixed taking into account the maximum sustainable yield and the need for conservation of resources.

Action Taken: As under Recommendation No. 7 above.

Recommendation No. 9: In order to conserve fishery resources in our waters, to protect fishermen and to reduce conflicts in the sea, deep sea fishing regulations should be enacted by the Parliament after consulting the fishing community.

Action Taken: Action has been initiated to formulate a legislation for regulation of fishing by Indian owned vessels in the EEZ.

Recommendation No. 10: For preventing conflicts between the traditional, small mechanised, larger deep sea vessels strict vigilance to be exercised by the Coast Guard. To attain this objective the Coast Guard should be strengthened, expanded, upgraded technically with the state-of-the-art system of navigation, surveillance and weaponry and properly tasked to prevent poaching by foreign vessels and observance of zone restriction by indigenous vessels. In case Coast Guard is not able to perform the task then by some other agency, State or Central, would be identified to ensure that these vessels excluded from specific areas do not violate prohibitions.

Action Taken: The Coast Guard is being assisted under a Central Sector Scheme to procure communication equipments for monitoring operation of fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ.

Recommendation No. 11: The Government should take active steps as well as make finances available for upgradation of technological skills and equipment used by the traditional fishermen, for mechanised boats and the Indian deep sea fishing fleet so that each can effectively fish in the areas reserved for it by law or in practice. Duty concessions and concessional finance should be made available for both navigational as well as fishing equipment aimed at competence upgradation to the state-of-the-art level to all the three categories with priority to the traditional sector.

Action Taken: The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Schemes for motorisation of traditional crafts by providing subsidy towards the cost of engines and reimbursement of central excise duty on HSD oil to mechanised boats below 20 m length.

Recommendation No. 12: Traditional and small mechanised sector should be assisted by adequate regular supply of fuel and by providing HSD and kerosene and by providing subsidy taking into account the benefits given to deep sea fishing vessels.

Action Taken: As under Recommendation No. 11 above.

Recommendation No. 13: All types of marine fisheries should come under one Ministry. The Government should also consider setting up a Fishery Authority of India to function in the manner in which such authorities set up in other countries function and to be responsible for formulation of policies as well as their implementation.

Action Taken: All subjects concerning fisheries, except processing, exports and education have been transferred to Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Recommendation No. 14: The Fishery Survey of India should also be technically upgraded by induction of the modern technology and equipment so that it can identify and map the location of all types of fish, study impact of different technologies and ecological changes. There should be proper coordination and cooperation between the National Remote Sensing Agencies and the Fishery Survey of India for this purpose.

Action Taken: The Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is being assisted through a Central Sector Scheme and action has been initiated on the proposal of FSI for acquisition of new survey vessels.

Recommendation No. 15: The Government should give priority to the creation of the infrastructure needed for preventing wastage of fishery resources which is occurring through throwing away by-catch. This may be achieved by providing a chain of cold storages, ice factories, fish processing facilities, fish iwal and feed manufacturing units for value addition to the products of fishermen and their cooperatives.

Action Taken: The Department of Food Processing Industries is implementing schemes for creation of infrastructure for cold chain and processing of fish.

Recommendation No. 16: Infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours for the existing and modern upgraded craft along east and west coasts as well as in island groups of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands may be created on priority basis.

Action Taken: The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Scheme for construction of fishing harbours and fish landing centres. The entire coastline including that of the islands is covered under the Scheme.

Recommendation No. 17: Fishermen/fisherwomen and their cooperatives may be provided with financial assistance for upgradation and acquisition of larger vessels for marketing and other related activities.

Action Taken: As under Recommendation No. 7 above,

Recommendation No. 18: The Government should give priority to training fishermen/fisherwomen in handling new equipment, larger vessels and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

Action Taken: The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for providing training to fishermen and fisherwomen for skill upgradation.

Recommendation No. 19: Government should take effective steps to tackle the menace of pollutants/effluents/ sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

Action Taken: The Ministry of Environment and Forests are taking care of this aspect.

Recommendation No. 20: Government should take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a period of six months.

Action Taken: Action taken on recommendations are at different stages of implementation,

Recommendation No. 21: The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

Action Taken: An Expert Group has been constituted to formulate a Comprehensive Policy for Marine fisheries.

Annexure-in Annexure-DI as referred to in part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1090 answered on 1.3.2000

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXPERT GROUP

i To ascertain the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by the traditional (including motorised), mechanised and deep sea fishing vessel,

ii. To formulate programmes for upgradation of the capabilities of the small-scale sector offish in deeper waters,

- iii To fix area-wise resource specific deep sea fishing fleet like tuna long liners, purse seiners, squid jiggers, pole and long line fishing etc.
- iv To evaluate the capacity of the present fishing deep sea fishing fleet and suggest modifications and redeployment, if necessary,
- v To estimate and identify sources for meeting the investment requirements of the marine fisheries sector,
- vi To assess the need for joint ventures, leasing, etc. with foreign fishing companies,
- vii To identify the human resource development needs of the marine fisheries sector and formulate programmes for meeting such requirements, and
- viii To suggest conservation measures taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other global initiatives for sustainable development of marine fisheries.