പതിമൂന്നാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

പതിമൂന്നാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നമിടാത്ത

ചോദ്യം നമ്പർ : 121 09-03-2015 - ൽ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

ഡോ. മീനാകുമാരി കമ്മീഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ട്

	ചോദ്യം		ഉത്തരം
	ഡോ.എൻ.ജയരാജ് **ശ്രീ.എം.വി.ശ്രേയാംസ് കുമാർ** **ശ്രീ.പി.സി.ജോർജ്** **ശ്രീ.റോഷി അഗസ്റ്റിൻ:**		**ശ്രീ. കെ. ബാബു** **മത്സ്യബന്ധനവും തുറമുഖവും എക്സൈസും വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി**
എ)	ഡോ. മീനാകുമാരി കമ്മീഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ട് മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളി സമൂഹത്തെ ദോഷകരമായി ബാധിക്കുമെന്ന് കണ്ടെത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ; വിശദമാക്കുമോ;	എ)	മീനാകുമാരി കമ്മീഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ട് മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളി സമൂഹത്തെ ദോഷകരമായി ബാധിക്കും. കടലിലെ 200 മീറ്റർ മുതൽ 500 മീറ്റർ വരെ ആഴമുള്ള പ്രദേശം ബഫർ സോണായി നിലനിറുത്തുക വഴി വിദേശ ട്രോളറുകൾക്ക് ഗുണകരമാകുകയും ആഴക്കടൽ വെസ്സലിന് നിരോധിത മേഖലയായി പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചിരുന്ന കടലിലെ ചില പ്രദേശത്തെ നിരോധനം നീക്കാനുള്ള ശുപാർശയും മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളികളെ ദോഷകരമായി ബാധിക്കും. നിലവിലുള്ള മത്സ്യബന്ധന യാനങ്ങൾക്കു പുറമെ 240 tuna long liners-ഉം 15 squid jigger-ഉം 15 purse seiener -ഉം ഉൾപ്പെടെ 270 ആഴക്കടൽ മത്സ്യബന്ധ യാനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടി EEZ -ൽ മത്സ്യബന്ധനം നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള അനുവാദം നൽകുന്നതിനുള്ള ശുപാർശ ഇപ്പോഴെ മത്സ്യ ലഭ്യത കുറവുള്ള കേരളത്തിലെ മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളികളെയും ബോട്ടുടമകളെയും ദോഷകരമായി ബാധിക്കും.
ബി)	പ്രസ്തുത റിപ്പോർട്ടിലെ പ്രധാന ശുപാർശകൾ എന്തെല്ലാമാണ്;	ബി)	റിപ്പോർട്ടിലെ ശുപാർശകൾ അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർക്കുന്നു.
സി)	സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ പരമ്പരാഗത മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളികളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനായി എന്തെല്ലാം നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുമെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കുമോ?	സി)	സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ പരമ്പരാഗത മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളികളെ സാരമായി ബാധിക്കുന്ന ഡോ. മീനാകുമാരി കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിലെ ശുപാർശകൾ നടപ്പിലാക്കരുതെന്ന് കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാരിനോട് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

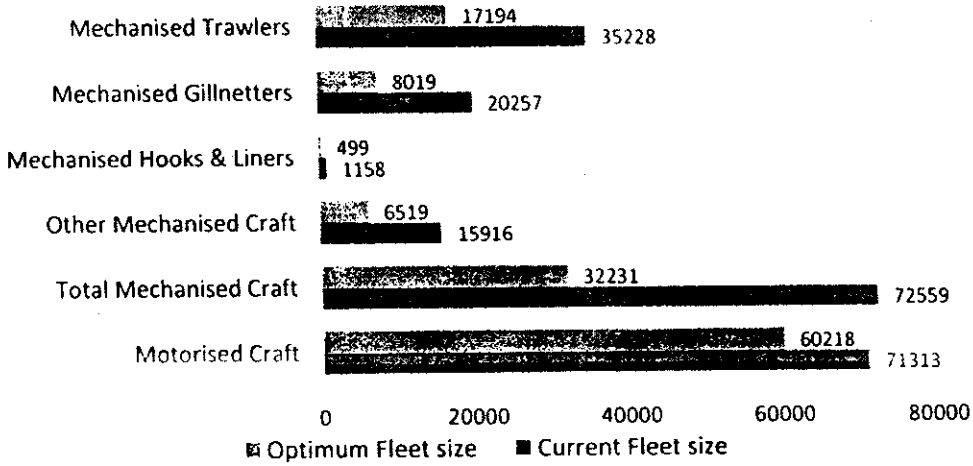

Figure 5: Present and estimated optimum fleet size for marine fisheries of India
Source: Optimum fleet size - GOI (2011); Current fleet size - CMFRI (2012)

Therefore, effort should be made to curb the entry of more craft in the fisheries. This could be done by setting conditions on boat design and manpower requirement of new fishing vessels and which over time can be extended to existing fishing vessels.

Based on above analysis, the following recommendations are proposed to enable the Government of India to devise suitable policies and programmes towards full exploitation of the catch potential in the Indian EEZ and from international waters:

- Sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in the Indian EEZ should be the primary condition for any utilization plan of Indian EEZ. Restoration of resources not only cost but often impossible.
- Requirements of coastal States should be taken into consideration and a holistic plan should be developed incorporating production targets of the coastal States. At the same time, coastal States also need to appreciate that while the larger EEZ (beyond 12 nautical miles) is a common resource for them, expansionary production strategies and isolated production decisions will lead to destruction of this common resource. Therefore, the Union Government and the State Governments must act together to agree upon management policies and measure for sustainable exploitation of the resources.
- Waters up to 200 meters depth are optimally exploited and in case of some species also over-exploited. Thus, there is no scope for expansion of fishing effort in this zone. Exploitation of resources in waters between 200 to 500 meters is now beginning, as small fishing boats (mainly in the 15 – 20 meter size ranges) are targeting the resources in this area. It is recommended that this depth zone may largely be kept as a buffer zone to augment the resources in both the near-shore waters as well as in the off-shore areas. Subsequently, this zone could also be utilized to diversify existing fishing fleet for targeting resources such squids, etc. and reducing pressure on near-shore waters in the future.
- Waters beyond 500 meter depth are not optimally exploited and there is considerable scope of expansion in this zone, mainly for tuna and tuna like species. Resource specific fishing vessels may be introduced in this area. Based on the resource potential of tuna and tuna like resources and

other commercial species such as squids, it is recommended that a fleet size of 1178 DSFVs may be considered for deployment in the Indian EEZ. This includes the existing DSFVs and the additional numbers of 270 vessels (240 tuna long liners, 15 purse seiners and 15 squid jiggers)

- As India is presently lacking in adequate expertise or resources to exploit water beyond 500 meters, hence technology transfer through acquisition of foreign fishing vessels and, or, joint ventures/leasing, etc. may be considered for this area till the domestic capacity is fully developed

- In the technologies proposed for introduction, squid jigging has been considered as a means of diversification and exploitation of the squid fisheries for increasing production from the offshore waters. In this regard, technology infusion is necessary to locate the major squid fishery grounds as also demonstration of technology for which test fishing may be considered.

- Keeping in view the developments in exploitation of the resources in waters beyond 12 nautical miles, there is an urgent need to enact a comprehensive legislation for regulation of Indian fishing fleet in the EEZ

- Trained manpower on board DSFVs is a critical requirement. In the absence of trained domestic crew that can work on such DSFVs, engagement of foreign crew onboard DSFVs is inevitable till the requisite skill is developed in the country. However, such engagements are becoming almost impossible due to the stringent conditions imposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). In this regard, conditions such as minimum salary of USD 25 000 per annum, fixed percentage of foreign crew onboard DSFVs and their phasing out norms; grant of security clearance, etc. need to be reconsidered and liberalized to make fishing operations attractive and feasible.

- Besides the above mentioned conditions, considerable time is also being taken in grant of security clearance to foreign crew, which not only results in loss of fishing days during peak fishing seasons and consequent economic loss to the sector, but also creates uncertainty for the operators in planning their fishing operations. This aspect also needs re-consideration by MHA and security clearances should be granted in a time bound manner so that the operators could plan their operations for the fishing season.

- Capacity building of the Indian crew has been one of the important requirements of fishing in the deep sea. Therefore, to create level-playing field, the domestic fleet of DSFVs may also be allowed to engage one or two foreign crew so that they can provide the guidance and build the capacity of the Indian operators wherever skill/training is required.

- On the issue of human resource development for the deep sea fishing sector and availability of certified personnel to man DSFVs, it is also highly recommended that the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi design appropriate courses for different category of operators and conduct such training programmes. Such programmes may be subsidized to provide incentives to the fishers to participate

- The present Guidelines regulating the fishing areas of LOP vessels have designated certain areas as prohibited for fishing. These areas were earmarked during the 1980's. Therefore, the Government may consider assessing the impact of these prohibited areas in conservation of fish stocks and take decisions on their continuity as prohibited areas or otherwise

- The present Guidelines permit seven types of fishing methods, *viz.* (i) long lining for tuna, (ii) tuna purse seining, (iii) squid jigging and squid hand lining, (iv) mid-water pelagic trawling, (v) trap fishing, (vi) hook and line fishing, and (vii) pole and line fishing. In view of the changing fisheries composition, present levels of exploitation, resource potential, etc., the Government may consider re-looking at the permitted fishing methods as also the category wise fleet size deployment

- In the same vein the industry is also of the view that the spawning seasons of tuna species such [illegible] and big eye, do not coincide with the period of the [illegible] ban on fishing

implemented by the Government of India every year. The industry has requested for a review of this ban period for the DSFVs and suggested that such vessels may be exempted from the purview of the ban.

- The Government should consider setting up of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in selected places to make tuna (skipjack) fishing more remunerative.

- Following the submission of Coast Guard to this Expert Committee, reporting mechanisms and compliance matters such as regular reporting of position during operation, submission of voyage report, crew compliance etc. should be improved and MCS measures including VMS should be put in place for better monitoring of the DSFVs. Reporting mechanisms of mid-sea transshipment of catch should be reviewed further in order to plug the loopholes, if any, on alleged under-reporting of catches. The Industry has also suggested that the requirements of daily reporting should not be insisted upon when the vessel is not fishing.

- Presently, multiple agencies are involved in regulating the activities of the DSFVs. These include the DAHD&F & FSI (Ministry of Agriculture); DG Shipping, MMDs, Port Authorities (Ministry of Shipping), MPEDA and DGFT (Ministry of Commerce); Coast Guard (Ministry of Defense); RBI, Customs (Ministry of Finance); Department of Telecommunication and Ministry of Home Affairs. Entrepreneurs often face difficulties in following the procedures of multiple agencies. There is a need to simplify the procedures and if need be a single window clearance procedure should be adopted.

- Based on the available resource potential and the price that tuna fisheries commands, it is estimated that the tuna and tuna like resources in the Indian EEZ are valued at approximately INR 3000 crores or US $ 500 million. In the absence of the Indian fleet unable to harvest this resource, the migratory stocks of tuna and tuna like species are being caught by the fishing fleet of the neighboring tuna fishing nations such as Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia. This in other words could be termed as a net loss of revenue to the Indian fisheries sector.

- Exploitation of the off-shore resources in the EEZ will have to be reconsidered in terms of not only the resources available in the EEZ but also in terms of infrastructure, a comprehensive and implementable set of rules and regulations, availability of scientific and technical information on the commercial fisheries resources and the best fishing methods with which to target them, etc. Such requirements may be considered by the Government.

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