GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING & FISHERIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 492

TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2015

**REPORT ON MARINE FISHERIES SECTOR**

492. DR. T. N. SEEMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE

be pleased to state:

1. Whether Government has received several representations against the Dr. B. Meenakumari Commission report on marine fisheries sector stating that it would adversely affect the livelihood of fishermen, if so, details thereof and the response of Government thereto;
2. whether the Commission had consulted the stakeholders before submitting the final report, if so, the details thereof;
3. whether fisheries sector has ample opportunity to generate employment and cause economic growth in the country, if so, the details thereof;
4. the number of persons engaged in fisheries in the country, State-wise; and
5. the details of plans/schemes undertaken/proposal for development of this sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE:

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government has received a number of representations regarding the Report of the Expert Committee constituted under the chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meenakumari for comprehensive review of deep-sea fishing Policy and Guidelines. According to the Expert Committee report, the committee has consulted some stakeholders on 31.10.2013 and obtained their views in making practical recommendations in the proposed policy and guidelines. The report has been placed on the website of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries for inviting comments from all stakeholders.

(c) & (d): Fisheries sector in India is a developing and growing sector which provides vast employment opportunities in the country. Fisheries have contributed 0.78% in the overall GDP during 2011-12. As per the Indian Livestock Census of 2003, there are 14.49 million people engaged in various fisheries related activities. About 75 percent of the fishers are engaged in inland fisheries activities and about 25 percent in marine fisheries activities. State-wise details of the number of persons engaged in different fishing occupations in the country is annexed.

(e) : Fisheries is a state subject and the Union Government provides assistance to States through various schemes for development of fisheries vide the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries such as:

1. Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture
2. Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations
3. Central Sector Scheme on National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen
4. Central Sector Scheme on Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Fisheries Sector
5. Central Sector Scheme on National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)