GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 373
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH JULY, 2024

FISH SPAWNING GROUNDS

373. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government map the fish spawning grounds in the coasts of the country;
(b) if so, the details of fish spawning grounds mapped in the East Coast of the country, particularly along the coast of Andhra Pradesh;
(c) the extent to which mapping helps in advising fishermen about using the size of mesh, boat, etc;
(d) whether the Government is developing species-specific fishery advisories; and
(e) if so, the details thereof, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b) Yes. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) underIndian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) has mapped the fish spawning grounds off Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Mapping of fish spawning ground can help in advising fishers to avoid fishingusing particular mesh size etc. during the spawning season.

(d) Yes. Fish stock Status report 2022 and policy guidance documents that have been published by CMFRI provide species- specific management advisories for all maritime states including the state of Andhra Pradesh. In addition to this, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has developed Tuna fisheries advisories for Indian EEZ, which is already operational since 2010.

(e) As part of the species-specific fisheries advisories research program, INCOIS has already developed the tuna fisheries advisories for the Indian EEZ using comprehensive studies on tuna habitats through satellite telemetric studies (SATTUNA) in both Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. Further, INCOIS has initiated research towards the development of species-specific advisories for some commercially important fish species like, Hilsa, Indian Mackerel and oil sardines. As part of this program INCOIS has started experiments and data collection for developing Hilsa fisheries advisories from Hooghly Estuary, West Bengal and Godavari Estuary, Andhra Pradesh, as the species are mostly abundant in these locations. This data will be eventually utilized along with satellite/model/ in-situ oceanographic parameters for the development of robust species-specific prediction models.

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