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ABSTRACT

Fisheries – Stoppage of New Registration of Mechanized Trawlers in Palk Bay Districts including Nagapattinam District – Orders – Issued.

Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Department

G.O(Ms)No.57

Dated 3.3.2017

Thiruvalluvar Aandu – 2048
Maasi-19

Read:-

1. From the Joint Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, D.O.letter No.27017/04/1998-Fy (IC) Vol.IV, dated.30.12.2016 and 16.1.2017.
2. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, letter Rc.No 16465/p1/2016, dated.24.1.2017.

ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Government of India had issued an advisory to strictly ensure that no fresh / new registration or licenses for bottom trawling are issued or renewed in all four Districts of Tamil Nadu namely Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Tanjavur and Nagapattinam adjoining the Palk Bay area. Subsequently, after the Ministerial Level Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 2.1.2016, Government of India had again reiterated its

2. In the letter second read above, the Commissioner of Fisheries has reported that,

- i. It is the Stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu that the Palk Bay has the traditional fishing grounds of fishermen of Tamil Nadu. The fixation of the International Maritime Boundary Line is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

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- ii. In order to find a permanent solution to this sensitive livelihood issue, Government of Tamil Nadu had submitted a detailed proposal to Government of India for diversification of Trawling pressure in the Palk Bay at an estimated cost of Rs.975 crore on 12.5.2015.
 - iii. In the meantime, to emphasize the intentions of the Government of Tamil Nadu to reduce the trawling pressure in the Palk Bay, it has initiated a scheme on diversification of Trawling pressure into deep sea fishing at a cost of Rs.51.3 crore and issued work orders to 171 fishermen beneficiaries on 15.7.2015 for construction of Tune Long Liners.
 - iv. In the absence of suitable schemes to diversify the trawling effort from the Palk Bay, it may not be feasible to impose and enforce stringent punitive measures on the trawlers which are engaged in fishing in the traditional waters of Palk Bay for decades.
 - v. During the discussions held with the fishermen representatives from Palk Bay on the sidelines of the outcome of Ministerial Level Meeting at Colombo, Sri Lanka on 2.1.2017, the fishermen representatives conveyed their concurrence and resolve to expand the self-imposed ban on new registration of Trawlers being followed by fishermen of Ramanathapuram District to other Districts of Palk Bay including Nagapattinam District.
 - vi. The Regional Joint Director, Nagapattinam, Regional Deputy Director, Ramanathapuram and Deputy Director, Trichy have communicated the resolutions of fishermen associations of the respective Palk Bay Districts to impose a ban on new registration of trawlers and requested to issue necessary orders of the Government on the same. However, the existing mechanized fishing boats engaged in trawling should be permitted to engage in fishing in the Palk Bay till they are diversified under suitable schemes.

3. Based on the above resolution of the fishermen associations in the Palk Bay Districts, the Commissioner of Fisheries has requested the Government to consider imposing a ban on new registration of the mechanized fishing boats which are engaged in fishing using trawl nets in the Palk Bay Districts including Nagapattinam District.

4. The Government after careful examination, has accepted the proposal of the Commissioner of Fisheries and impose ban on new Registration of the Mechanized Fishing Boats which are engaged in fishing using trawl nets in the Palk Bay Districts namely, Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Palk Bay region of Nagapattinam Districts based on the resolutions passed by certain Fishermen Associations of the Palk Bay area.

5. The Commissioner of Fisheries is requested to take action accordingly.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI
Principal Secretary to Government

To
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Chennai-6.
The Joint Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries,
New Delhi - 100 001.
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//Forwarded By Order//

21-01-2011
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Section Officer