

**For favour of publicity**

**8th October, 2012**

**A statement circulated by Shri Ram Naik, BJP Leader & former  
Petroleum Minister in a Press Conference held on  
8th October 2012 in Mumbai**

***Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar ditches fishermen - Ram Naik***

**Mumbai, Monday:** "To sanction rebate of Rs.4 per litre of diesel to fishermen, to provide loan at 4 percent interest and to pass a suitable legislation to ensure law and order beyond 12 nautical miles in sea were the three demands of fishermen which were assured to be considered positively by Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar in a meeting held on 26th April 2012. However instead of taking positive decisions, Shri Sharad Pawar has ditched the coastal fishermen. The fishermen will now launch an agitation", warned Shri Ram Naik, Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Petroleum Minister in a press conference held to-day in Mumbai. Shri Rajendra Meher, Convener, BJP Maharashtra Fishermen Cell and Shri Sagar Killekar, Convener, Mumbai Cell were also present in the conference.

While explaining the problems of fishermen, Shri Ram Naik said, "Taking into consideration the rise of diesel prices, we had demanded in a meeting held on 26th April 2012 in Delhi to increase the rebate on diesel to Rs. 4 per litre and also to withdraw the condition that rebate was available only to fishermen below poverty line (BPL). We had explained that fishermen owning a fishing boat can never be a BPL. Moreover the budget for 2012-2013 had provided that farmers would get loans at 7 percent with a provision that those repaying installments within time would get a rebate of 3 percent, resulting into an effective rate of 4 percent. Since fishing is also considered as 'farming on water', we had demanded that fishermen should also get loan at 4 percent. We had also demanded a suitable legislation for

..2..

..2..

maintaining law and order in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as there have been frequent attacks on the fishermen fishing beyond 12 nautical miles. The Agriculture Minister had assured that the proposed Bill is under consideration."

"Agriculture Minister Shri Pawar had promised that the Government would consider all the three issues positively. Since there was no communication from him, we sent a reminder. We have now received his letter dated 21st September which says subsidy would be provided only to BPL fishermen. Regarding the rate of interest, 'the matter would be proposed for incorporation in the revised schemes for 12th plan'. About the issue of regulating fishing in EEZ, the Ministry 'is still in the process of finalising a draft Bill'. The substance is that no positive decision has been taken, leave aside the implementation. We are in dialogue with the Agriculture Minister from 2007, however the UPA government has not given any relief to the fishermen. Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar has thus ditched the fishermen. We have therefore decided to launch an agitation against the inactive, insensitive and anti-fishermen UPA government", stated Shri Ram Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**

**Encl : Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar's letter dated 21st September 2012.**

शरद पवार  
SHARAD PAWAR



D.O. No. 2573/JAM  
कृषि एवं खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE &  
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

No.30035-23/2004-Fy(T-1)  
21<sup>st</sup> September, 2012

My Dear Shri Ram Naik

Kindly refer to your letter No.104 dated 01.07.2012 regarding fisheries related issues of coastal fishermen of Maharashtra.

I have got the issues contained in your letter examined. Regarding the issue of regulating fishing in EEZ, the Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of finalizing a draft Bill for the purpose. As regards the diesel subsidy, during 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the subsidy was enhanced to ₹3 per litre being provided only to the fishers of BPL category. Regarding the issue of interest subvention on the loan taken by fishermen, the matter would be proposed for incorporation in the revised schemes for 12<sup>th</sup> plan.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Ram Naik,  
9, Shivsmriti,  
51, Jayaprakash Nagar,  
Goregaon East,  
Mumbai-400063.

श्री. राम नाईक  
का जनसंपर्क कार्यालय-मुंबई

27 SEP 2012

Office of  
Shri Ram Naik - Mumbai

Office : Room No. 120, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001 Tel.: 23383370, 23782691 Fax : 23384129  
Resi. : 6, Janpath, New Delhi-110 011 (India) Tel. : 011-23018870, 23018619 Fax : 011-23018609  
E-mail : sharadpawar.sp@gmail.com