



# NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS (INLAND)

---

April 02, 2020

**Shri Giriraj Singh,**  
Hon'ble Minister,  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Sub: NPSSFW(I) submission regarding D.O. No. 12035/1/2015-Fy(WU) dt. 26.03.2020 and D.O. No. 12035/1/2015-Fy(WU) dt. 30.03.2020 as well as on the proposed pre-poning of annual fish ban period.

Respected Sir,

Our sincere thanks for actions taken by the Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying under their D.O.Nos. mentioned above with reference to the appeals made by NPSSFW(I). Our views and suggestions on the same are placed below for your kind perusal.

**A. Regarding providing relief (monetary assistance) to fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors and fish workers by direct bank transfer (DBT). [Ref: DO No.12035/1/2015-Fy(WU) dt. 30.03.2020]**

We welcome the decision to provide assistance by DBT.

We take this opportunity to bring it to your kind notice that there is a big problem in identifying genuine fish workers who need to get immediate relief because many of the fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors and fish workers do not have Identity Cards. In the inland sector very few have got I-Cards. In the marine sector, though most of the fishers have B-I Cards, many non-fishers have also procured B-I Cards by unscrupulous means. In this situation **the only way to best ascertain proper identification of fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors and other fish workers is to take active assistance of existing fish worker unions, associations, cooperatives, fish production groups and fish worker SHGs.** NPSSFW(I) and organisations affiliated with it in different states are eager to cooperate with the Government their level best in this regard..

**B. Regarding the amount of monetary assistance to be provided to the fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors and fish workers:**

Considering that the minimum wage for semi-skilled workers in the country is Rs. 371 per day and also considering that generally each fish workers' household has at least two fish workers constituting family labour, it is proposed that **every fish worker household should be paid at least Rs. 15,000/- per month.** This assistance should be for the lock down period together with the fish ban period as the fishing communities have been so affected by the Corona Virus related lock down that they could not earn enough to tide them over during the fishing ban period. It should also be considered that particularly the East Coast suffered multiple natural calamities including cyclone Bulbul in the current fishing season.



## **NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS (INLAND)**

---

### **C. Regarding the proposed pre-poning of fishing ban period:**

We are given to understand that the Government is considering pre-poning of the fishing ban to include the Corona Lock Down period.

NPSSFW(I) strongly holds that the fishing ban period is meant for the fish breeding season and replenishment of the natural fish stock. This period should not be changed. We cannot allow our resource base to be depleted.

NPSSFW(I) has demanded extension of the fishing ban period to three months for small scale motorised fishing and four months for mechanised fishing including trawl fishing.

It should also be considered that during monsoon it becomes too risky to venture into the sea. Fish drying, an activity associated with marine fishing, is also not possible during monsoon. As such, there will be little relief for common fishers and fish workers if the fishing ban is pre-poned.

**Please do not consider changing the ban period. Please provide livelihood assistance to small scale fish workers as requested at 'B' above through the fishing ban period.**

Thanking you,

With best regards,

*Pradip Chatterjee*

**Pradip Chatterjee,**

Convener, NPSSFW(I)

Mobile: 9874432773 / 87778 91475.