



## NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS (INLAND)

Memo No. NPSSF/Conv. - 15/22

May 12, 2022

**Sri Narendra Damodardas Modi,  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
Raisina Hills, New Delhi-110011.**

Subject: Urgent need of fuel subsidy for small scale fishing sector.

Sir,

Greetings from the National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSF).

This is to bring to your kind notice that the hike in prices of Diesel, Petrol and Kerosene in the country has broken all records and is still going up. While the price of Petrol per litre has crossed Rs. 120 in Mumbai, the price of diesel is nearly Rs. 105 per litre. The price of non-PDS Kerosene has attained a high of more than Rs.130 per litre in Mumbai.

The small-scale fishers, who with their **motorised non-mechanical** boats venture into the sea, rivers and other water bodies to fish for livelihood, are in grave crisis due to the sharp increase in the cost of fuel. The small-scale fishing communities are mostly engaged in sustainable fishing and are already facing livelihood crisis due to overfishing and destructive fishing by the larger fishing boats like trawlers and purse-seiners. Small scale fisheries need to be supported for protection of our natural fish resources, food security of our people and also for maintaining a huge employment with gender balance. The sector deserves responsible, sympathetic and humane treatment from the government for its services to the nation and the society.

**The situation demands immediate relief.** The small scale fishers must be provided with duty free fuel. **Diesel and Petrol** used as fuel for motorised non-mechanical small fishing boats should have **no Exide Duty or VAT** and **Kerosene** used as fuel should be supplied at **PDS rate**.

**The fuel subsidy for fishing boats should be provided exclusively as livelihood support for small scale fishing in marine or inland fisheries adhering to strict 'Sustainability Criteria'**. Fuel subsidy should not be provided to larger fishing boats that fish mainly for commercial purpose and cause overfishing and destructive fishing through their large capacities and aggressive gears.

As such, in the **Marine Sector, to maintain sustainability criteria, only motorised non-mechanical fishing boats** [as indicated by Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Fishing Boats) Rules, 1988 under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958] should be provided with fuel subsidy. In the **Inland Sector** there may not be any differentiation for fuel subsidy as only small motorised non-mechanical boats operate. **The fishermen's cooperative societies may be entrusted with the responsibility to distribute subsidised fuel to the small scale fishers.**

Thanking you and looking forward to an urgent and effective step at your end,

Yours Sincerely,

**Pradip Chatterjee,  
Convener,**

**National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (Inland)**

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