



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS (INLAND)

July 4, 2020

**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 National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers.

This is to bring to your kind notice that the price of Diesel, Petrol and Kerosene has sky rocketed in the past three months. While the price of Diesel and Petrol per litre has either crossed or about to cross Rs. 80, the price of non-PDS Kerosene has attained a high of more than Rs. 70 per litre.

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 facing dire problem due to the abrupt increase in the cost of fuel. The poor fishers deserve due sympathy and humanly dealing from the Government.

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,

Yours Sincerely,

**Pradip Chatterjee,
Convener,**

National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (Inland)

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