

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 89
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd FEBRUARY, 2024

Schemes to assist small-scale fishers and coastal communities

89. Smt. Darshana Singh:

Will the Minister of *Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes to assist small-scale fishers and coastal communities, for ease of access to credit, marketing opportunities, and post-harvest processing facilities; and
- (b) whether this community has a vital role in the fisheries sector, if so, the details of the schemes to empower these communities economically and socially?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (b): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a flagship scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for a period of 5 years with effect from Financial Year 2020-21 to Fy 2024-25 for holistic development of fisheries and aquaculture for the benefits of fishers including small-scale fishermen, fish farmers and other stakeholders. The PMMSY *inter-alia* supports the small-scale fishermen for acquisition of boats and nets, support for communication/tracking devices, providing sea-safety kits, insurance cover to fishers, support for acquisition of deep-sea fishing vessels with modern fishing equipment, alternative/additional livelihood activities like seaweed culture & bivalve culture, training & skill development, adoption of new fish culture technologies like Re-circulatory Aquaculture System, Biofloc system, cage culture and support towards cold-chain and marketing facilities. PMMSY also envisages financial assistance towards livelihood and nutritional support for socio-economically backward traditional fisher's families during the fishing ban/lean period. During the last three years (2020-21 to 2022-23) and current year (2023-24), projects amounting to Rs. 17,966.25 crore have been approved for development of fisheries and aquaculture including welfare of fishers and fish farmers under PMMSY.

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, with effect from financial year 2018-19 to FY 2022-23 has also implemented an another scheme namely Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total fund size of Rs 7522.48 crore. FIDF *inter-alia* provides concessional finance for development of various fisheries infrastructure facilities to the Eligible Entities (EEs), including State Governments/Union Territories and State entities for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities. The activities supported under FIDF includes fishing harbours, fish landing centres, construction of ice plants, construction of cold storage, fish transport facilities, fish feed mills, fish processing units, setting up of brood banks, development of hatcheries, development of aquaculture, development of mariculture, etc. Under this scheme, a total of 121 proposals at a cost of Rs. 5589 crore from various State Governments and other End Implementing Agencies have been approved.

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India under PMMSY and FIDF has so far approved the proposals to the tune of Rs. 2076.83 crore for development of cold chain facilities including construction of 586 cold storages, modernization of 81 cold storages/ice plants, 26447 post-harvest transport facilities, 13 whole sale fish markets, 193 retail markets and 6555 fish kiosks. Besides, 100 projects relating to fishing harbours and fish landing centres at a total cost of Rs.7689.59 crore have also been approved under above said two schemes.

Besides, to promote easy access to credit for aqua-culture farmers, fish farmers and fishing activities the Government of India in 2018-19 has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisher and fish farmers to help them to meet their working capital needs. So far a total of 1,82,903 Kisan Credit Cards have been issued to fishers and fish farmers.
