

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 91
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024

Livelihood support and skill development for traditional fisherman

91. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) the manner in which Government is supporting small-scale fishermen in the country, and the steps being taken to enhance their access to credit, technology, and modern fishing equipment;
- (b) the steps being taken to develop fisheries infrastructure in Kerala, including the construction of harbors, landing centers, and cold storage facilities for the benefit of fishermen; and
- (c) the initiatives that are in place to enhance the skills and knowledge of traditional fishermen in the country, and the manner in which Government is addressing the need for training in modern fishing techniques and safety measures?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): 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.

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 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.

Besides, to promote easy access to credit for fishers, 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.

(b): Development of infrastructure for fisheries is one of the thrust areas supported under the PMMSY. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries has so far accorded approvals to the various fishing harbour proposals at a total cost of Rs. 161.11 crore, which include (i) Expansion of Kasaragod Fishing Harbour, (ii) Upgradation and modernization of existing fishing 3 fishing harbours namely Ponnani, Puthiyappa, Koyilandy and (iii) Maintenance dredging of existing 6 fishing harbours namely Kayamkulam, Chettuva, Ponnani, Beypore, Puthiyappa and Koyilandy. Besides, modernization and up-gradation of existing fishing harbour at Thoppumpady, Cochin at a total cost of Rs 169.17 crore has also been taken up. In addition, the Department of Fisheries has also approved the proposal for development of Arthungal Fishing Harbour at a total cost of Rs 161.00 crore under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). The post harvest related facilities like 15 ice plants and cold storages, 458 transportation units, 75 live fish vending centres, 5 retail markets, 90 fish kiosks have been approved for Kerala under the PMMSY.

(c): PMMSY *inter-alia* lays special focus on training, skill development, skill up-gradation and capacity building through trainings, awareness building programmes and exposure visits to various stakeholders especially traditional fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, fish vendors, entrepreneurs, fisheries Cooperatives and members of Fish Farmer Producer Organizations in acquiring skills in modern fishing techniques and safety measures, aquaculture and post harvest related activities. The Training, Awareness, Exposure and Capacity Building programmes are carried out through the National Fisheries Development Board, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), other organisations and State/UT Fisheries Departments.