

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 30
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27th NOVEMBER, 2024**

Prawn Cultivation

30 Ms. Dola Sen:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the tremendous surge in prawn cultivation on the eastern coast including sensitive ecosystems like Sundarbans and Chilika Lake which can become an ecological disaster;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken to mitigate this environmental crisis; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)**

(a) to (c): A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No 30 put in by Ms. Dola Sen due for answer on 27th November, 2024 regarding Prawn Cultivation

(a): There is gradual increase in cultivation of shrimp in the east coast of India mainly in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Tamil Nadu States. The Government of Odisha has informed that the state Government is aware about the increased wild catch of prawn and shrimp from Chilika Lake. The Government of West Bengal has informed that the prawn production from Sundarban area has increased from 71740 tonne during 2022-23 to 75762 tonne during 2023-24.

(b): Prawn cultivation is not allowed in ecologically sensitive zones under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notifications, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) Act, 2005 which regulates coastal aquaculture activities prohibits aquaculture in ecologically sensitive areas in Indian coast.

The State Fisheries Department of Odisha in collaboration with the Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) has completed the geospatial mapping of the coastal areas and developed Coastal aquaculture information system (COAST) web portal and mobile application for verification of land suitable for prawn culture, excluding the lands coming under forest areas and eco-sensitive zones. Government of Odisha has also informed that by virtue of Orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in W. P(C) No. 7469 of 2017, the illegal prawn gherries and farms were demolished by the Fisheries Department of Odisha and the District Administration. A total of 4321 nos. of illegal prawn gherries and farms covering area of 15737.85 hectare were demolished around the periphery of Chilika Lake and Bhitarkanika sanctuary.

The Government of West Bengal has informed the State Government is very keen to protect the biodiversity and ecology of the Sundarban areas and continuously keeping vigil to assess the ecological impact of prawn cultivation in Sundarban. Awareness programmes are also conducted regularly among the fishermen of Sundarban areas to wean them away from the intensive brackish water aquaculture practice to extensive and traditional culture practices. Apart from this, Fisheries Department of the Government of West Bengal has launched a scheme *viz.*, Abhoy Pukur, wherein biodiversity of native ecological habitat is protected in water bodies vulnerable to ecological disaster. Additionally, there are ongoing programmes for restoration of mangroves in the Sundarban areas and during the last two years 11,193 ha of mangrove forest has been created in the Sundarban areas to counter the ecological degradation.

The Government of Odisha has taken all requisite steps to prevent prawn cultivation in the Chilika Lake. The Govt of West Bengal needs to take similar requisite action as prescribed by law. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has advised the Govt of West Bengal to ensure strict compliance of Coastal Regulatory Zone notification 2019 and Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 and its Amendment Act, 2023.

(c): Does not arise.
