

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2624
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th DECEMBER, 2024**

Sustainable growth of the fisheries sector

2624. Shri Jose K. Mani:

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

- (a) the steps Government has taken to ensure the sustainable growth of the fisheries sector in the country, particularly in light of climate change and environmental challenges;
- (b) the specific measures that are being implemented to assist small-scale and artisanal fishers who are most vulnerable to changing oceanic conditions; and
- (c) the allocation and utilization of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in the last two years, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) : To ensure sustainable growth of the fisheries sector in the country, particularly in light of climate change and environmental challenges, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has identified 100 coastal fishermen villages situated close to the coastline as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV). The program promotes climate-resilient fisheries through initiatives such as seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, artificial reefs, sea ranching and promotion of green fuel etc. besides safety and security measures for fishermen and fishing vessels. Special attention is paid to extent support programs like insurance, livelihood and nutritional support, Kisan Credit Cards, and training and capacity building in these villages. Activities in the identified coastal fishermen villages are need-based facilities, including common facilities like fish drying yards, fish processing canters, fish markets, fishing jetties, ice plants, cold storages and emergency rescue facilities based on the gap analysis study. In addition, fisheries research institutes under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Government of India have been conducting research regularly for understanding the impacts of climate change in order to develop climate resilient strategies for sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture. As a part of National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project, the ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have identified 31 coastal villages as "Climate Smart Villages" in the maritime States/UTs. Further, in order to increase preparedness and adaptive capacity of fishers against climate change, ICAR Institutes have also conducted climate campaigns and awareness programmes in various states.

(b) : The flagship scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, *inter-alia* supports the small-scale fishermen for acquisition of boats and nets, communication/tracking devices, sea-safety kits, insurance cover to fishers, acquisition of deep-sea fishing vessels with modern fishing equipment etc besides alternative/additional livelihood activities like seaweed culture, bivalve culture, ornamental, pearl farming etc. Training & skill development, promotion of new aquaculture technologies like Re-circulatory Aquaculture System, Biofloc system, cage culture and support towards cold-chain and marketing facilities etc are also priority programmes under the scheme. In addition, to help small scale and artisanal fishers the Department of Fisheries Govt of India also supports the States and UTs for enhancing the production and productivity of the open water bodies through programmes like artificial reef installation and river/sea ranching. PMMSY also envisages financial assistance towards livelihood and nutritional support for socio-economically backward traditional fishers' families during the fishing ban/lean period. During the last four years (2020-21 to 2023-24) and in the current year (2024-25), projects amounting to Rs. 20,864.29 crore have been approved for development of fisheries and aquaculture including welfare of fishers and fish farmers under PMMSY. Besides, to promote easy access to credit, the Government of India has extended Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility to fisher and fish farmers to meet their working capital needs. So far, a total of 4,40,508 Kisan Credit Cards has been issued to fishers and fish farmers.

(c) : Department of Fisheries, Government of India accorded approval of proposals worth of Rs. 11,535.32 crore with Central share of Rs. 4982.95 crore in the last 2 years (2022-23 and 2023-24) under PMMSY. Out of the total central share approved, an amount of Rs. 2317.92 crore has been released to all the States/UTs and other Implementing Agencies.
