

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No.*197

TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025

Fishing infrastrucutre and Fishermen welfare

***197. Shri R. Girirajan:**

Will the Minister of *FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to increase the per capita income of fisherman in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the social, financial and technological support for the development of fishing infrastructure and fishermen welfare in the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to initiate insurance scheme for fishermen, if so, the details thereof and the total beneficiaries under such scheme in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) the share of funds provided by the Union Government under various schemes for the development of fishermen in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

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

Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 197 regarding "Fishing infrastrucutre and Fishermen welfare" put in by Shri R. Girirajan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament for answer on 19th March, 2025

(a) and (b): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India since 2015, has substantially stepped-up investment in fisheries sector through schemes worth Rs. 38,572 crore for holistic development of fisheries and aquaculture and welfare of fishermen in the country including Tamil Nadu. The schemes include, (i) Blue Revolution Scheme implemented from FY2015-16 to 2019-20 with central outlay of Rs. 3,000 crore helped in mobilizing of a total investment of Rs. 5,000 crore, (ii) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund implemented from FY2018-19 to 2025-26 with a fund size of Rs. 7,522.48 crore, (iii) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) implemented from FY2020-21 to 2024-25 with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore, (iv) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PM-MKSSY) implemented from the FY2023-24 to 2026-27 with a total outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore and (v) Extension of the facility of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the fishers and fish farmers to meet their working capital requirements. These schemes are primarily designed to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernisation and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare.

To achieve the objective of enhancement of fishers and fish farmers income, the focus under these schemes is for development of aquaculture, marine fisheries, coldwater fisheries, brackishwater aquaculture, reservoir fisheries, infrastructure, technology infusion and strengthening of fish marketing and marketing infrastructure, value addition, and quality efficient cold chain facilities. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India during the last three years (FY 2021-22 to 2023-24) has accorded approvals for fisheries development proposals of various State Governments, Union Territories and other implementing agencies amounting to Rs.15,820.23 crore, including the projects proposals of Rs.865.36 crore for the State of Tamil Nadu under PMMSY. Under the scheme of extension of the facility of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the fishers and fish farmers, 2,86,120 number of KCC cards have been approved during the last three years (FY 2021-22 to 2023-24) including 49,418 number of KCC cards approved in the State of Tamil Nadu. Under the scheme of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), 72 proposals worth of Rs. 1943.54 crore have been approved during the last three years (FY 2021-22 to 2023-24) including 49 projects worth of Rs. 715.95 crore approved for the State of Tamil Nadu.

During the last four years (2020-21 to 2023-24) and current year (2024-25), the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has accorded approvals for various project proposals towards development of fisheries and socio-economic upliftment of fishers and fish farmers, including establishment of a Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu for Rs. 127.71 crore, up-gradation of Fishing Harbour at Pazhayar Chennai fishing harbour and construction of four integrated Fish Landing Centres at Nettukuppam, Thazankuppam, Arangankuppam and Goonankuppam at a total project cost of Rs. 155.57 crore, acquisition of 50 new Deep sea fishing vessels for traditional fishermen at a project cost of Rs. 60 crore, establishment of 417 units of Artificial Reefs at a project cost of Rs. 129.27 crore.

The other activities approved in Tamil Nadu included new Brood Banks (02 Nos), Construction of Freshwater finfish hatcheries (10 Nos), Area Expansion for aquaculture (265 hectare), Biofloc ponds in fresh and brackishwater (61 hectare), brackishwater aquaculture (110 hectare), stocking of fingerlings in Reservoirs (19302 hectare), establishment of open sea cages (102 Nos), establishment of Seaweed culture rafts (8595 Nos), establishment of Seaweed culture with Monoline/tubenet (2580 Nos), Ornamental fish rearing units (170 Nos) and Ornamental breeding and rearing units (29 Nos), establishment of Re-circulatory Aquaculture Systems (23 Nos), Biofloc culture units (135 Nos), construction of Ice Plants/Cold storages (40 Nos), Construction of Fish Kiosks (55 Nos) and post-harvest transportation units (1540 Nos), Bio-toilets in mechanised fishing vessels (100 Nos), Communication and /or Tracking Devices (500 Nos) for traditional and motorised vessels like VHF /Transponders etc., boats and nets (500 Nos) for traditional fishermen, Safety kits for fishermen of Traditional and motorized fishing vessels (500 Nos), and Livelihood and nutritional support for 7,56,112 traditional fishers during fishing ban/lean period (2020-21 to 2023-24).

The schemes implementation have made vital contributions in overall growth of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the country, especially (i) increase of annual fish production to 184.02 lakh tonne in 2023-24, (ii) increase in fisheries export to Rs.6,0524.89 crore in 2023-24, (iii) enhanced per capita fish consumption to 12-13 kg and (iv) enhance aquaculture productivity to 4.7 tonne per hectare and thereby enhancing the income of fishers and fish farmers. The annual fish production in State of Tamil Nadu has been enhanced to 8.84 lakh tonnes during the implementation period of schemes till 2023-24.

(c): The Department of Fisheries, Government of India under the PMMSY has also been implementing the Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) in all States/UTs including Tamil Nadu wherein the entire insurance premium amount is borne by the Central and State Government, with no contribution from the beneficiary. The insurance coverage provided under the said scheme includes (i) Rs.5,00,000/- against death or permanent total disability, (ii) Rs.2,50,000/- for permanent partial disability and (iii) hospitalization expenses in the event of an accident for a sum of Rs. 25,000/-. During the last three years (from 2021-22 to 2023-24) and current financial year (2024-25), a total of 131.30 lakh of fishers including about 22 lakh fisheries of Tamil Nadu have been provided the insurance coverage under the scheme.

(d): The Department of Fisheries, Government of India for holistic development of the fisheries sector and fishermen in the country has accorded approvals to the projects of various States, Union Territories (UTs) and other implementing agencies at a total cost of Rs. 20,990.79 crore with the central share of Rs. 8,926.33 crore under the PMMSY during last 4 years (2020-21 to 2023-24) and current financial year (2024-25). Further, under FIDF, 136 projects with an outlay of Rs. 5,801.06 crore with project cost restricted for interest subvention at Rs. 3,858.19 crore have been approved for various States/UTs.
