

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

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *339
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025**

Fisheries startup

***339 Dr. Sikander Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government has given approval to fisheries startups or entrepreneurship under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY);
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the details of fund sanctioned to promote technological advancements in fisheries and allied sectors;
- (d) whether Government has launched any mobile application to boost Fisheries Sector, if so, the details thereof along with its features; and
- (e) whether Government is taking any step to encourage women entrepreneurs to come forward and become an integral part of fisheries startup ecosystem in the State of Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *339 to be answered on 02.04.2025 regarding Fisheries startup by Dr. Sikander Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha:

(a)&(b) Yes, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is supporting fisheries startups and entrepreneurs under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) - with the aim to encourage the startups to develop transformative solutions in the fisheries sector and to drive innovation, sustainability and efficiency by supporting Startups with seed funding and incubation. The Department of Fisheries organised the Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge 1.0, on 13th January 2022, in collaboration with the Startup India under the Invest India, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, wherein 12 Startup fisheries winner were awarded a cash grant of Rs 2.00 Lakh each, including an incubation support and seed grant up to INR 20.00 lakh (General category) and INR 30.00 Lakh (SC/ST/Women) for transforming their ideas into effective pilots, which would further translate into commercialization. Taking this forward, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India organized the Fisheries Startup Conclave on 8th March, 2025 at Hyderabad, Telangana to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector. During the Conclave, the 'Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge 2.0' was launched with the aim to encourage the startups to develop transformative solutions in the fisheries sector and to drive innovation, sustainability and efficiency by supporting Startups with seed funding and incubation. The Fisheries Startup Conclave witnessed active participation from over 50 fisheries startups, highlighting their innovations in areas such as aquaculture, fisheries technology, and value addition. Under Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge 2.0, two Startup winners will be selected for each of the five problem statements, resulting in a total of 10 Grand Winners. Each winning Startup will receive a cash prize of Rs. 10.00 lakh, amounting to Rs. 1 crore in seed funding support. Winner Startups will be provided incubation facilities and mentorship by Indian Council of Agriculture Research Institutes, National Fisheries Development Board and attached offices of the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. To promote innovation, boost private investment, enhance productivity, strengthen market linkages in the fisheries sector, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries has approved 39 Nos of project proposals with subsidy assistance of Rs. 31.22 Crores, under the Entrepreneur Model of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme.

- (c) The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India through the flagship schemes like, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) has been promoting technological advancements in the fisheries sector, by providing funds for the promotion of R&D for sustainable fishing practices, innovative aquaculture technologies and improved fish breeding techniques, biofloc and Re-Circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS), pen and cage culture, developing the modern cold storage, processing units, fishing harbours, fish landing centres to enhance post-harvest management and value addition, by adopting the modern technology in data-driven solutions for fisheries management, including the development of digital tools for tracking fish stocks and enhancing fish farming practices, equipping the fish farmers and fisheries entrepreneurs with the latest technological advancements in aquaculture and fisheries management. These technologies aim to reduce cost of production while enhancing production and productivity. A total project cost of Rs. 3507.93 crores, with a central share of 1246.74 crores has been sanctioned during the last 4 years and current financial year in the form of 55,118 reservoir cages, 12,022 re-circulatory aquaculture systems (RAS), 4360 biofloc Units, 1525 open sea cages, and 560.7 hectares pens.
- (d) The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India has recently launched National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) mobile application for registration of farmers to avail the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojna (PM-MKSSY), such as performance-based incentives, aquaculture insurance, facilitate institutional credit, claim application for eligible financial incentives and strengthening of fisheries co-operatives and fisheries' traceability systems etc. Till date 21,56,099 fisher, fish farmers and stakeholders are registered under NFDP. Further, a Matsya Setu Mobile Application-a virtual learning process for disseminating various technologies and methods is also launched by the Department of Fisheries to boost the fisheries sector.
- (e) Yes, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India is taking proactive steps to encourage women entrepreneurs to become an integral part of the fisheries startup ecosystem to create a more inclusive and gender-responsive fisheries ecosystem, ensuring equal opportunities for women entrepreneurs across India including the state of Himachal Pradesh. Under, PMMSY scheme, women beneficiaries are provided subsidy upto 60% of the unit cost. Under the PMMSY scheme, the projects with a Central Outlay of Rs. 1448.10 lakhs has been sanctioned in the state of Himachal Pradesh to women beneficiaries w.e.f. 2020-21 to 2024-25 in 94 various advance technological components of fisheries sector. To promote technological advancements in fisheries sector, during last five years, projects with total outlay of Rs. 786.90 Lakhs have been approved to Government of Himachal Pradesh for construction of 124 small/medium biofloc units and biofloc ponds, out of which 51 units/ponds have been approved for women beneficiaries. Further, projects with outlay of Rs. 291.50 Lakhs have been approved for constructing 20 small/medium/large RAS units including 12 units for women beneficiaries.