

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1658
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Impact of Sea level rise

1658. SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made an estimation on the impact of sea level rise and water scarcity on the fishermen and fisherwomen in terms of fish-catch, if so, the details thereof from 2020-2025, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is taking any initiatives to save fishermen/fisherwomen community with community participation, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) The details of financial assistance provided to curb sea level rise and water scarcity; and
- (d) whether any expert body/ committee has been appointed in advisory capacity or in any other way to make suggestions or recommendations to address the situation, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) As per the information received from Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, the marine fisheries production has been exhibiting steady increase over the years and there has not been any specific study by the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India on the impact of sea level rise and water scarcity on the fishers in terms of fish catch. Incidentally, the total marine fish production of India during 2022-23 was 4.43 million tonnes, which recorded an increment of 0.3 million tonnes over the previous year, i.e. 2021-22, when total marine fish production was 4.12 million tonnes. Further, according to the CMFRI published Marine Fish Stock Status, 2022, the marine fish stock of the Indian waters are in good health and 91.1% of the 135 fish stocks evaluated in different regions during 2022 were found at sustainable levels.

(b) The Department of Fisheries, Government of India (DoF, GoI) is taking several steps under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for providing financial assistance to fishers. Under the scheme, priority is given to cooperatives, SHGs and other community institutions of fishers for various benefits. Cooperatives, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability

Groups (JLGs), and Fish Farmer Producer Organizations/Companies (FFPOs/Cs) are eligible for governmental assistance including Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Management such as cold storages, ice plants, fish feed mills, and fish markets, Aquatic Referral Laboratories (ARL), Establishment of Integrated Aqua Parks (IAPs) ecotourism, sustainable fishing practices, and alternative livelihoods.

Further, the Cooperatives and institutions are key partners in organizing and facilitating Capacity Building and Training programs. These measures ensure that cooperatives and institutions of fishers receive focused attention and support under PMMSY, promoting their holistic development and welfare.

To enhance the economic resilience of coastal communities impacted by climate change, 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 activities in the identified coastal fishermen villages are need-based facilities, including common facilities like fish drying yards, fish processing centers, fish markets, fishing jetties, ice plants, cold storages and emergency rescue facilities.

The DoF, GoI is taking several steps towards conservation and sustainable development of marine fisheries resources such as establishment of artificial reefs and conduct of sea ranching, implementation of uniform season fishing ban for 61 days during monsoon which is the breeding season for fishes in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India, ban on pair or bull trawling, ban on use of LED or artificial light in fishing in the EEZ area etc.

Advisories are issued to States/UTs to take measures to prevent juvenile fishing such as implementation of mesh size regulations and minimum legal size of fish under their Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) to ensure sustainable and responsible fishing practices.

(c) Ministry of Jal Shakti, D/O Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has a Centrally sponsored scheme namely Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP), which provides financial assistance for flood management and control schemes to States/ UTs. Coastal Protection Schemes are eligible for Central assistance under FMBAP. The scheme has a budgetary outlay of Rs. 4100 Crores for a period of 2021-26 with cost sharing provision of 90:10 for special category of States and 60:40 for General Category of states.

The 15th Finance Commission has earmarked Rs. 1500 crore for mitigation measures to prevent river and coastal erosion for the same period under National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF). These funds are available to State Government on cost-sharing basis. (Central 90: State 10).

Central Government has established “National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change” with inter-alia, focus to build coastal defenses and improving the resilience of coastal communities to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise. The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established to support adaptation activities in the States and Union Territories (UTs) of India that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. NAFCC is implemented in project mode and till date, 30 projects are sanctioned in 27 States and UTs.

(d) Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) under the Chairmanship of Member (River Management Wing), Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Jal Shakti, have been constituted to guide and implement the programme of anti-sea erosion works & to consider the development potential in the protected coastal zone. The secretariat of the committee is Coastal Management Directorate within CWC. The committee is a high-level inter-ministerial body comprising costal engineering experts and representatives from Maritime States/Union Territories and relevant Central Departments to provide common platform to discuss and solve the coastal erosion problems.
