

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2947
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2025**

Opportunities for Fisheries Sector

2947 Smt: Sumitra Balmik

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Ministry to improve the variety and breed of fishes;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Ministry to promote research and development in the field of fisheries;
- (c) the steps being taken to promote entrepreneurship and export of fisheries and other value added products; and
- (d) any identified States/ districts where the fisheries sector is booming and offers promising opportunities?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)**

(a): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has approved various activities to improve the species diversification and breeding of fish such as (i) Genetic improvement programme of commercially important fish species, (ii) Establishment of Brood Bank (iii) Brood Stock Multiplication Centre, (iii) Establishment of Hatchery, (iii) Seed rearing area. Besides, the Department of Fisheries promotes the breeding and culture of indigenous species having regional importance in States and Union Territories for freshwater, brackish water, cold water, saline water aquaculture and mariculture.

(b): The Department of Fisheries, Gol under the central sector scheme component of PMMSY has approved projects for Rs 774.96 crore with 100% central share to ICAR- Fisheries Research Institutes, Fisheries Colleges, Universities, States and UTs and other implementing agencies for research and development activities in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. The major research projects approved are (i) Genetic improvement Programmes of fish, shellfish, and seaweed, (ii) Development of new technology in fisheries and aquaculture, (iii) Development of breeding technology of fish and shellfish species, (iv) Feasibility study of Seaweed cultivation in Indian coasts (v) Training and capacity building Programme of fishers and fish farmers.

(c): In order to enhance India's export competitiveness and higher price realization, the PMMSY supports a basket of interventions/activities along the fisheries value chain including quality fish production, expansion, diversification, and intensification of brackish water aquaculture, promotion of export-oriented species, infusion of technology, robust disease management and traceability, training and capacity building, creation of modern post-harvest infrastructure with seamless cold chain, development of modern fishing harbours and fish landing centres. The seafood exports of India have more than doubled since 2013-14. While the seafood exports stood at Rs 30,213 crore in 2013-14, the same has increased to Rs. 60,523.89 crore during 2023-24. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) promotes Indian fisheries products through brand promotion, exporter enrolment, and importer liaison. It enhances industry capacity via training, awareness campaigns, workshops, and *chintanshivirs*. To explore new markets, MPEDA participates in international trade fairs, organizes Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs) and Reverse Buyer Seller Meets (RBSMs), and collaborates with Indian Missions abroad. To ensure quality meets international standards, the Export Inspection Council (EIC), Department of Commerce conducts periodic awareness and training programs for relevant stakeholders across the value chain.

The Government also conducts bilateral meetings with major importers (U.S., EU, China, Japan) to boost seafood exports. To strengthen India's seafood sector globally, the government is facilitating ease of business by amending regulations, streamlining imports, and reducing import duties on key aquafeed ingredients, aquaculture inputs, and fish processing ingredients.

In order to create more entrepreneurs in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, the Department of Fisheries, Gol is implementing the Entrepreneur Model in fisheries and aquaculture under PMMSY through the National Fisheries Development of Board (NFDB). The NFDB has reported that 36 Nos of proposals covering 16 States with a total outlay of Rs. 117.59 Crores with financial assistance of Rs. 31.44 crores have been approved under the Entrepreneur Model.

(d): The top 5 fish producing States are (i) Andhra Pradesh (51.58 Lakh tonne) (ii) West Bengal (22.02 Lakh tonne) (iii) Uttar Pradesh (11.60 Lakh tonne) (iv) Karnataka (11.31 Lakh tonne) and (v) Odisha (11.24 Lakh tonne). These five States contribute more than 58% of country's fish production. Besides the Department of Fisheries is implementing cluster development programme under the PMMSY and in the first phase 17 clusters in 17 States have been notified based on the fisheries and aquaculture potential with objective to developed production and processing value chain in focused manner.
