

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3585
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2025**

Regulation of illegal shrimp hatcheries

3585 Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey / study regarding the set up of illegal hatcheries in the country over the last five years;
- (b) if so, details regarding the total number of such illegal hatcheries set up, discovered and shut down over the last five years, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the actions undertaken by Government against illegal hatcheries and total amount of fines collected in a State-wise manner, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding the impact of illegal hatcheries on the environment, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government of India, through the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), established under the CAA Act, 2005, is committed to regulating and promoting coastal aquaculture activities while ensuring environmental sustainability and protecting the livelihoods of coastal communities. The CAA is entrusted with the responsibility of registering all coastal aquaculture hatcheries located within two kilometers of the High Tide Line (HTL) across the country. To maintain compliance and standards, an inspection committee comprising representatives from CAA, ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Marine Product Development Authority (MPEDA) and the respective District Fisheries Officer conduct regular inspections of these hatcheries. The committee recommends registration and renewal to the Authority and reports any instances of unauthorized operations or illegal seed production, ensuring that appropriate action is taken when required.

The CAA has registered a total of 549 hatcheries across the country, including 499 hatcheries for *Litopenaeus vannamei*, 37 hatcheries for *Penaeus monodon*, 5 hatcheries for marine finfish, 2 hatcheries for scampi, and 6 hatcheries belonging to research institutes. Over the last five years, several instances of illegal seed production and unauthorized hatcheries operations have been reported, as detailed in **Annexure-I**. The CAA has taken strict actions against such violations during this period.

In 2020-21, the Inspection Committee inspected 197 shrimp hatcheries. During the year, unauthorized seed production using pond-reared broodstock was reported on 03.06.2020 at *M/s. Sri Janani Hatchery* located in Vidavalur and Indukurpet Mandals, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. The unauthorized stock was destroyed, and the bank guarantee of ₹5.00 lakhs was invoked under Rule 10 of the CAA Rules, 2005.

Notices were issued to 52 hatcheries whose registration validity expired on 30.06.2020, directing them to cease operations until regularization. On 12.11.2020, illegal seed production of *L. vannamei* was reported in three hatcheries at U. Kothapalli and Thondangi Mandals, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. Six other hatcheries operating without CAA registration were identified, and their unauthorized stock was destroyed. In Tamil Nadu, one hatchery in Chengalpattu District was involved in illegal seed production, and its stock was destroyed on 12.03.2021. Additionally, 13 unregistered hatcheries were directed to cease operations and obtain CAA registration.

In 2021-22, the Inspection Committee inspected 40 hatcheries. Surprise inspections conducted in October 2021 revealed unauthorized seed production of *L. vannamei* in one hatchery and *P. monodon* in five hatcheries in Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu. The registration of one hatchery was canceled, and its bank guarantee of ₹5.00 lakhs was invoked. A total of 307 hatcheries located across Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam Districts were inspected during this period. Unauthorized seed production of *P. monodon* was identified at three hatcheries in Nellore District, and one unregistered hatchery in East Godavari District was involved in illegal seed production of *L. vannamei*. Operations of these hatcheries were suspended, and the performance bank guarantees amounting to ₹15.00 lakhs were invoked.

In 2022-23, the Inspection Committee conducted 521 inspections, during which no illegal hatcheries or violations were reported. Similarly, in 2023-24, 398 inspections were carried out, and no unauthorized operations were noticed.

In 2024-25, 306 shrimp hatcheries were inspected, and three hatcheries were found to be engaged in illegal seed production. *M/s. Golden Marine Hatchery, Unit VI* in Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu, was involved in unauthorized seed production of *L. vannamei* and was penalized ₹25,000/- for the first offense under Section 14 of the CAA Act, 2005. *M/s. Simadhri Hatchery* in Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh, was engaged in unauthorized seed production of *P. monodon* and was also penalized ₹25,000/-. *M/s. Akshaya Hatcheries* in Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh, was found involved in illegal seed production of *L. vannamei* without CAA registration and was penalized ₹50,000/-.

The CAA continues its vigilant efforts to regulate shrimp hatcheries and prevent unauthorized operations to ensure sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry. Further, the total amount of fines collected from illegal hatcheries state wise is attached in **Annexure-II**.

(d): Environmental monitoring is an ongoing process. While there hasn't been a specific study conducted on this matter, it is important to note that untreated discharge from illegal hatcheries, if not properly managed in accordance with the Guidelines for regulating coastal aquaculture, could potentially harm the environment. To ensure compliance and safeguard the environment, CAA field staff regularly collect water samples from discharge points at farms and hatcheries in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. These samples are analyzed in government-approved laboratories as part of our continuous environmental monitoring efforts.

The Department of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, reported that the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) collected water samples from canals, drains, creeks, and discharges from hatcheries, fish/prawn ponds, shrimp, and seafood processing plants both within and outside the CRZ during 2017 and 2018 in 7 out of 9 coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. These samples were then analyzed in laboratories to assess whether the units complied with discharge standards for various water quality parameters.

**The illegal seed production and unauthorised operation of hatcheries reported last five years
in state wise.**

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the State	No. of hatcheries where illegal operations were reported	Nature of violations reported
1.	2020-21	Andhra Pradesh	10	(1) Unauthorised Seed Production, which is not permitted by the CAA and (2) illegal seed production by the Unregistered Hatcheries
		Tamil Nadu	13	(1) Unauthorised Seed Production, which is not permitted by the CAA and (2) illegal seed production by the Unregistered Hatcheries
		Total	23	
2.	2021-22	Andhra Pradesh	4	(1) Unauthorised Seed Production, which is not permitted by the CAA and (2) illegal seed production by the Unregistered Hatcheries
		Tamil Nadu	6	(1) Unauthorised Seed Production, which is not permitted by the CAA and (2) illegal seed production by the Unregistered Hatcheries
		Total	10	
3.	2022-23	Nil		
4.	2023-24	Nil		
5.	2024-25	Andhra Pradesh	2	(1) Unauthorised Seed Production, which is not permitted by the CAA and (2) illegal seed production by the Unregistered Hatcheries
		Tamil Nadu	1	Unauthorised Seed Production, which is not permitted by the CAA
		Total	3	

The total amount of fines collected from illegal hatcheries in state wise (Reported by Coastal Aquaculture Authority).

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the State	No. of hatcheries reported for illegal operations	Penalties imposed	
				Non-monetary penalties imposed	Penalty amount imposed
1.	2020-21	Andhra Pradesh	10	Destroyed the unauthorised stock and directed to submit the application for registration	Bank Guarantee for Rs. 5.00 Lakhs was invoked (for one registered hatchery)
		Tamil Nadu	13	Unauthorised stock was destroyed and all the hatcheries were directed to cease their operations and closed their units till their regularization.	-
		Total	23		Rs. 5.00 Lakhs
2.	2021-22	Andhra Pradesh	4	Destroyed the unauthorised stock and cancelled the hatchery registration.	Bank Guarantee Rs. 15.00 Lakhs was invoked (from three registered hatcheries)
		Tamil Nadu	6	Destroyed the unauthorised stock and cancelled the registration of the hatcheries	Bank Guarantee Rs. 5.00 Lakhs was invoked (for one registered hatchery)
		Total	10		Rs. 20.00 Lakhs
3.	2022-23	Nil			
4.	2023-24	Nil			
5.	2024-25	Andhra Pradesh	2	Show-cause notice issued and Destroyed the unauthorised stock	The penalty imposed for Rs. 75,000/- for two hatcheries
		Tamil Nadu	1		The penalty imposed for Rs. 25,000/-
		Total	3		Rs.1,00,000/-

**The total amount of fines collected from illegal hatcheries in Andhra Pradesh
(Reported by Department of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh).**

Year	No. of Hatcheries Inspected	Fine Imposed (In Lakhs)
2019-20	188	4.75
2020-21	177	3.50
2021-22	275	11.50
2022-23	271	1.00
2023-24	175	2.75
2024-25 (As on Feb, 2025)	356	--