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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1174
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2025

Research on Hilsa aquaculture in West Bengal

1174 Shri Samik Bhattacharya:

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

(a) the status of research and development activities undertaken by ICAR-CIFRI and other collaborating institutes for Hilsa aquaculture in West Bengal;
(b) the amount of funding allocated and utilized for these research activities;
(c) whether there are plans to further develop the artificial breeding of Hilsa in ponds and complete its life cycle in captivity;
(d) if so, the timeline for achieving these objectives and the expected impact on Hilsa production and prices in the domestic market; and
(e) whether Government is considering providing technical and financial assistance to expand Hilsa aquaculture in West Bengal and other potential regions **?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)

(a): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has reported that ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) has been undertaking research on Hilsa in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), ICAR-Central Institute of Brackish Water (CIBA) and ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) since 2012. Major outcomes of the programme are (i) Developed seed production technology using cryopreserved milt from the brooders collected from nature, (ii) Captive brood stock development in pond culture system in freshwater and brackish water, (iii) Maturity of males obtained in 12-14 months while in females in 24-27 months, (iv) Captive rearing of Hilsa in freshwater and brackish water with recorded maximum size of 733 and762 g, respectively, (v) Developed larval rearing techniques and achieved 81% survival from spawn to fry and 85%survival from fry to fingerlings, (vi) Developed slow-sinking, fine-tuned feed for early life stages, grow-out and brooders, (vii) Developed ultra sonography (USG) based method for assessing sex and gonad development.

(b): The ICAR has informed that a total of Rs.19.35 crores were allocated in two phases during 2012 to 2023 for research on Hilsa fisheries, of which Rs.15.45 crores were utilized.

(c) and (d): ICAR has reported that they have taken up research work on Hilsa brood stock development in ponds and induced breeding. Research on captive breeding on hilsa also undertaken with dietary environmental and hormonal manipulations in ICAR-CIFRI.

(e): The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Govt of India *inter alia* support aquaculture projects including construction of ponds/tanks, Nucleus Breeding Centres(NBCs), Brood stock Multiplication Centres (BMCs), Brood Banks, hatcheries, nursery and grow-out pond. Under PMMSY, creation of 185 hectare aquaculture pond including freshwater, brackish water have been approved to the Government of West Bengal.

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