

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1180  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025

**Promotion of aqua sector, market diversification and fishermen support**

**1180 Shri Sana Sathish Babu:**

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

- (a) the current share of the country's aqua exports to major markets and the steps being taken to diversify exports to new destinations;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken measures to increase domestic seafood consumption through awareness and nutrition campaigns;
- (c) whether fishermen availing Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) are being provided one-time top-up loans or similar financial support to enhance competitiveness in new markets; and
- (d) whether any plan exists to introduce dedicated train services for efficient transport of aqua products from Southern India?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The aqua product export of India reached 16.98 lakh metric tonnes of seafood valued at Rs. 62,408 crore (USD 7.45 billion) in 2024–25 to over 130 countries. The United States remains India's largest market, accounting for 36.42% of export value, followed by China (17.13%), the EU (15.10%), Southeast Asia (SEA) (13.08%), Japan (5.52%), the Middle East (3.73%), and others (9%) during 2024-25. The export basket continues to be dominated by frozen shrimp, followed by frozen fish, squid, dried items, frozen cuttle fish, surimi products, and live and chilled products, etc.

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, in collaboration with the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), has taken various steps to diversify exports to new destinations. These include organizing sensitization and awareness programmes on the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), conducting stakeholder consultations, holding *Chintan Shivir* on value addition, focusing identification of new markets and deepening the potential markets for increasing trade facilitation, enhancing export promotion through trade delegations, and organizing Buyer–Seller Meets. The Department of Fisheries, GoI has also held a series of meetings with the Embassies and High Commissions of potential partner countries to explore avenues for collaboration, enhance bilateral trade cooperation in the fisheries sector, value addition, biosecurity and quality compliance, automation, R&D collaboration, and promote sustainable development initiatives.

(b): The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, is implementing several strategic initiatives aimed at boosting domestic consumption and strengthening market infrastructure under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Under this flagship scheme, 34,788 infrastructure units have been established, with a budget allocation of ₹2,403 crore. These include cold storage, retail and wholesale markets, fish kiosks, value-added product units, and post-harvest transportation facilities (refrigerated/insulated vehicles, bikes, etc.).

Further, infrastructure support has been strengthened through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), which has supported 15 major projects worth Rs. 208 crore, primarily focused on fish processing and cold-chain development. For the promotion of seafood value-added products, the Government of India has recently approved the reduction in GST on fish oils, fish extracts, and preserved fish/shrimp products from 12% to 5%. This measure is expected to make value-added seafood more affordable and thereby enhance domestic consumption.

To boost domestic consumption and enhance public awareness, the Department of Fisheries, GoI through the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), has launched a series of promotional initiatives. These included crowdsourcing creative taglines and slogans via social media platforms, as well as producing jingles in various vernacular languages to promote domestic fish consumption and educate stakeholders and the general public. NFDB organized 48 fish food festivals and fish melas across the country to attract consumers and popularize fish-based cuisine. The Department of Fisheries, GoI has also ensured active participation in major national fairs such as World Food India and AAHAR, showcasing value-added, ready-to-eat, and ready-to-cook fish products. Furthermore, the partnership with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has significantly expanded consumer outreach and strengthened digital access to a wide range of seafood products.

(c) In the year 2018-19, the Government of India has extended the facility of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the fishers and fish farmers to meet their working capital requirements. Under this scheme, farmers receive KCC loans up to Rs. 2.00 Lakh (for fishers & fish farmers) at a subsidized interest rate of 7%. To facilitate this, the Govt of India provides an up-front interest subvention (IS) of 1.5% to financial institutions. Additionally, farmers who repay their loans promptly on time receive a 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI), effectively reducing the interest rate to 4% per annum. As per RBI Guidelines, there are no provisions or references to any 'one-time top-up loan' specifically for fishermen holding Kisan Credit Cards for the purpose of providing additional credit to expand operations or enter new markets, beyond the standard credit facilities available under the KCC scheme.

(d) The Ministry of Railways has informed that particular circuits for the movement of agri-allied products, including aqua-products, are planned based on demand and operational feasibility. Presently, there is no plan to introduce a dedicated service for the transport of aqua-products from southern India.

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