

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. 405
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2026

Welfare measures for fishermen in Kerala

405: Shri Abdul Wahab:

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

- (a) the details of welfare schemes implemented for fishermen residing in the coastal regions of Kerala during the last three years;
- (b) the funds allocated, released and utilised under such schemes, year-wise;
- (c) whether Government has identified families affected by sea erosion, high tides and coastal flooding;
- (d) the number of houses sanctioned, relocated or reconstructed for such affected persons; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure long-term coastal protection, livelihood security and climate resilient rehabilitation for vulnerable fishing communities in the State?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 405 put in by Shri Abdul Wahab, Member of Parliament for answer on 1st April, 2026 regarding welfare measures for fishermen in Kerala

(a) and (b) : The Department of Fisheries, Government of India through its schemes, policies and programs has been taking up several initiatives for holistic development of fisheries and aquaculture sector including welfare of fishers and fish farmers in all the States and Union Territories(UTs) including in Kerala. The Fisheries development schemes presently implemented include Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY). In addition, Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) facility has also been extended to fisheries and fish farmers to meet their working capital requirements.

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India during the last three years (FY 2022-23 to 2024-25) and the current year (FY 2025-26) has accorded approvals to the fisheries development proposals of Government of Kerala amounting to Rs. 1065.42 crore under the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The year-wise details of the fisheries development proposals approved, Central funds released to the Government of Kerala and funds utilised by the State Government during the last three years and current year under PMMSY are furnished below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Project Cost	Central Share allocated	Central Funds released	Funds utilized
2022-23	43198.58	18152.34	15316.38	15316.38
2023-24	30731.3	13437.48	7988.25	7971.23
2024-25	25516.65	13335.67	2499.66	2499.66
2025-26	7095.60	2590.02	10000.00	7700.00

The activities approved under PMMSY during last three years to Kerala towards benefit of fishers and fish farmers *inter-alia* included support towards creation of livelihood opportunities such as providing 100 boats and nets to traditional fishermen of Kerala, acquisition of 10 deep-sea fishing vessels, 1140 bivalve cultivation units, 50 brackishwater cage culture units, 426 backyard/medium ornamental fish rearing units, 15 ice plants, 370 units of fish transport vehicles, 2 state of art fish markets, 90 units of fish kiosks and livelihood & nutritional support to 1.73 lakh fishers of Kerala during fish ban/lean period annually. Besides, in order to ensure safety of fishers & climate resilience, establishment of 9 Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages, 6 Nos of Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages has been approved to Kerala and 5316 transponders has been installed in fishing vessels of Kerala. Further, expansion/upgradation of 5 fishing harbours and maintenance dredging of 6 fishing harbours have been approved to Kerala under PMMSY. Under FIDF, development of a fishing harbour at Arthungal amounting to Rs.161 crore has been also approved. Further, a total 15,057 Kisan Credit Cards have been also issued to the fishers and fish farmers in Kerala to meet their working capital requirements.

The main activities supported through the National Fisheries Digital Platform(NFDP) under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhhi Sah Yojana (PM-MKSSY) for the fishers, fish farmers and fisheries stakeholders of Kerala include (i) registration of 2.52 lakh fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders, (ii) approval of proposals for strengthening of existing 87 primary fisheries cooperatives at a total cost of Rs. 165.30 lakh, (iii) referring of 251 credit lead applications with a loan amount of Rs. 47.3 crore through the NFDP to the concerned banks etc.

(c) to (e): The rehabilitation of fishermen affected due to flooding, sea erosion and high tide etc are primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments with the support of Government of India. The Government of Kerala has reported that a total 3640 affected families and residing within 50m of high tide line were rehabilitated in safer places with the financial assistance for procuring land and building houses.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs has reported that the Government of India has taken up a key initiative including issuance of the Policy on “Resettlement of People Affected by Erosion under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)” in June, 2024, based on the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. It is reported that in line with these recommendations, an allocation of Rs 1000 crore has been made under the NDRF to support the resettlement of erosion-affected populations, including vulnerable fishing communities residing in high-risk coastal zones. These measures taken by the Government of India are aimed at ensuring safer housing, livelihood security and improved living conditions for affected families. Further, this effort also aims to strengthen long-term community resilience, reduce vulnerability and support, sustainable recovery of coastal populations. In addition, all concerned coastal States, including Kerala have been also advised to submit detailed project proposals for undertaking mitigation and rehabilitation activities in affected regions under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).

Further, the fishing harbours and fish landing centres taken up under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) *inter-alia* envisage for development of need based waterside and landside facilities like breakwaters, training walls and groynes primarily to create shelter and tranquil basin for smooth operations of fishery activities, protect the lives and assets of fishermen during the rough weather and natural calamities. In addition, the Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) initiative of PMMSY also envisages shore protection works like short groyne or any technologically advance structures. As stated above, total 12 fishing harbour projects and 6 Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages have been approved for Kerala under the ongoing fisheries development schemes.
