

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1656
ANSWERED ON THE 13/02/2026

**IMPORT OF FISH INTO WEST BENGAL FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND
INTER-STATE SOURCES**

1656. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state that:

- (a) quantity and value of fish imported into West Bengal from foreign countries during each of the last five years, year-wise and country-wise, along with the species/variety of fish imported;
- (b) quantity of fish brought into West Bengal from other States within country during the same period, State-wise and variety-wise;
- (c) whether Government maintains data on dependence of West Bengal on imported fish to meet local demand, and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) ports/land customs stations through which such fish imports are routed; and
- (e) measures taken to promote domestic fish production and reduce import dependence while safeguarding livelihoods of local fishermen in West Bengal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Import of Marine products including fish under the various items during the last five FY and current FY 2025-26 (April to November) to West Bengal is placed at Annexure- I.

(b) During the year 2022–23, 1.51 LMT of fish was brought into West Bengal from other States, which decreased to 1.36 LMT in 2023–24 and further declined to 1.22 LMT in 2024–25. This primarily comprised Indian Major Carps sourced from Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar.

(c) & (d) The import of fish and fisheries' products is regulated under the Livestock Importation Act, 1898, as amended by the Livestock Importation (Amendment) Act, 2001 (Act No. 28 of 2001). Import of fish and fisheries products are permitted only through a network of designated ports of entry managed by six regional Animal Quarantine and Certification Services (AQCS) offices, under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.

A total of 33 designated entry ports have been officially notified for the import of fish and fisheries products into India. These include major airports, seaports, and Inland Container Depots (ICDs) operating under the jurisdiction of AQ&CS offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. The entry ports are strategically distributed across the country to ensure effective geographic coverage, facilitate regulated and biosecure imports,

and ensure strict adherence to quarantine and sanitary requirements for livestock and fisheries consignments.

In West Bengal, the notified ports of entry for the import of fish and fisheries products include land ports such as Petrapole and Jaigaon, along with Kolkata Seaport and Airport enabling efficient handling and regulatory oversight of import consignments in the region.

(e) To promote sustainable development of the fisheries sector, enhance domestic fish production, reduce import dependence, and safeguard the livelihoods of local fishermen in West Bengal, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has been implementing the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) since 2020–21. The scheme is being implemented across all States and Union Territories, including West Bengal, for a period of five years (2020–21 to 2024–25) and continues in the current financial year 2025–26.

During the period from 2020–21 to 2024–25, and including the current year 2025–26, the Department of Fisheries has accorded approvals to fisheries development proposals submitted by the Government of West Bengal with a total outlay of ₹550.18 crore. These interventions aim to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture production, improve infrastructure, and enhance efficiency across the entire fisheries value chain.

Key interventions supported under PMMSY in West Bengal include the establishment of finfish hatcheries, construction of grow-out and rearing ponds, promotion of biofloc systems, backyard ornamental fish rearing units, brood banks, cold storage facilities, ice plants, quality fish production, technology infusion, expansion and diversification of aquaculture. The scheme also supports the development of fish transportation facilities, fish retail markets, fish kiosks, value-added fish processing enterprises, e-platforms for e-trading and e-marketing, and strengthened extension and support services. These measures collectively contribute to increased domestic fish production, reduced import dependence, and improved income and livelihood security for local fishermen in the State.

**Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1656
for answer on 13.02.2026.**

Annexure- I
[Values in Million(M) USD]
(Units in KGs)

COUNTRY NAME	ITEM DESCRIPTION	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26 (as on Nov)	
		QUANTITY	VALUE (IN M\$)	QUANTITY	VALUE (IN M\$)								
MAURITANIA	CROAKERS, GROUPERS AND FLOUNDERS FROZEN	51300	0.05										
	FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH							340	0.00	2727	0.02	30	0.00
	TILAPIAS FROZEN											19958	0.05
	TROUT FRESH OR CHILLED	100	0.02										
	OTHER SHRIMPS AND PRAWNS	17250	0.12			18000	0.11						
	FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH					50	0.00						
	VANNAMEI SHRIMP (LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI)									14625	0.12	15750	0.11
	FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH	100	0.00										
	FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH	1035	0.01	143	0.02	268	0.02	137	0.02	367	0.06	438	0.03
	CHANKS											15820	0.00
	CORAL UNWRKD/SMP LY PRPD BT NT OTHRWSE WRKD	1	0.00	6	0.00								
	OTHER											54220	0.10

VANNAMEI SHRIMP (LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI)							15300	0.11				
FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH	735	0.00	591	0.02	181	0.02	356	0.03	143	0.01	416	0.01
VANNAMEI SHRIMP (LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI)					9350	0.06						
SARDINES, SARDINELLA, BRISLING OR SPRATS FROZEN							28037	0.02				
HILSA (TENUALOSA ILISHA) FRESH OR CHILLED	14047 4	1.08	41215 4	3.32	14922 5	0.95	58897 5	4.06	65127 5	6.24	48647 5	4.53
HILSA (TENUALOSA ILISHA) FRESH OR CHILLED			29448 5	1.84								
CATFISH FROZEN			12672 0	0.11	15394 5	0.15	11006	0.01	73998	0.08	6180	0.01
FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH	855	0.00	223	0.00	103	0.00	294	0.01	240	0.00	37	0.00
TILAPIAS FROZEN											19958	0.17
VANNAMEI SHRIMP (LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI)									20000	0.15		
FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH	1210	0.00										
OTHER FISH,MEAL,UN FT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION							2345	0.01				
FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH	5960	0.02	444	0.02	572	0.03	1325	0.07	976	0.05	825	0.03
OTHER FISH INCL NILE PERCH AND SNAKEHEADS FROZEN							53860	0.06	22879	0.03		

	VANNAMEI SHRIMP (LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI)						18000	0.11				
	FROZEN FILLETS OF PACIFIC SALMON	605	0.01									
	VANNAMEI SHRIMP (LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI)				48510	0.46						
	OTHER SCAMPI						15000	0.21	15876	0.21	15876	0.29
UGANDA	FRSH OR CHLD FILLETS NILE PERCH (LATES NILOTICUS)				29067	0.21	40259	0.28				
	VANNAMEI SHRIMP (LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI)			54000	0.43	90540	0.72	21795 5	1.45	11765 9	0.87	18306 0.11
	OTHER FISH OF FAMILIES BREGMACEROTIDAE, EUCLICHTHYIDAE, GADIDAE ETC FROZEN						69980 0	0.72				
	FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FISH	300	0.01									
	OTHER FISH OF FAMILIES BREGMACEROTIDAE, EUCLICHTHYIDAE, GADIDAE ETC FROZEN	10908 0	0.08									
	Total	32900 5	1.41 500 7	88876 6	5.76 262 1	49981 1	2.72 127	16929 89	7.16 831	92076 5	7.83 167	65428 9 092

Source: DGCI&S