

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2140  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026

**Shrimp export rejections and traceability**

**2140. Shri Saket Gokhale:**

Will the **Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian shrimp export consignments rejected by the EU and USA in 2025-26 due to the presence of banned antibiotics or diseases;
- (b) the systemic failures in the aquaculture monitoring framework that allow such usage; and
- (c) the roadmap for implementing a mandatory blockchain-based traceability system for aquaculture exports?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**

**SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH**

(a) The Export Inspection Council (EIC), under the Department of Commerce, was established by the Government of India under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963, to promote India's export trade through quality control and inspection of notified products, including shrimp, to ensure compliance with the requirements of importing countries. As informed by EIC, during 2025–26, a total of 7 Indian shrimp export consignments were rejected by the European Union and 12 by the United States of America due to the presence of banned antibiotics. Action has been taken in accordance with the EIC's complaint handling procedure and the requirements of the respective importing countries. No rejections of shrimp consignments were reported due to the presence of shrimp diseases or pathogens.

(b) The Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005, as amended by the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Act, 2023, regulates coastal aquaculture in the country. The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) has prohibited the use of antibiotics and other pharmacologically active substances in coastal aquaculture and permits only certified aquaculture inputs, with penalties prescribed for violations. CAA also issues notices and advisories to stakeholders to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Act and to raise awareness among farmers and exporters regarding banned antibiotics. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has advised all coastal States to constitute Antibiotic Task Forces to monitor and penalise the use and supply of banned antibiotics across the aquaculture supply chain. Accordingly, multidisciplinary task forces have been constituted in the Coastal States. The Government of India also facilitates inspection audits by importing countries to assess the systems in place for the prevention, monitoring, and control of antibiotic use.

To ensure export quality and safety, EIC conducts periodic training on Food Safety Management System (FSMS) requirements for approved seafood export establishments and mandates testing of aquaculture shrimp for banned antibiotics during export certification. MPEDA supports compliance through pre-harvest testing (PHT) using ELISA kits and NABL-accredited laboratories, and implements certification programmes such as SHAPHARI for hatcheries and farms. Further, MPEDA, CAA, and EIC jointly implement the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) to monitor antibiotic residues and ensure adherence to international standards, thereby strengthening surveillance, traceability, and responsible aquaculture practices.

(c) The Department of Fisheries, GoI released the National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture 2025 with the aims and objectives to establish a national digital traceability system across the fisheries and aquaculture value chains, ensure regulatory compliance for both domestic standards and international requirements for fish and fishery products, promote food safety and quality assurance, bring transparency, accountability and enhancing consumer confidence, facilitate market access for small-scale fishers and farmers in domestic and international trade ultimately boosting export. The framework provides for a phased, inclusive, and technology-driven approach to ensure that both small-scale operators and large commercial enterprises can comply with traceability and certification requirements. The framework provides for a National Level Governance Committee (NLGC) as an apex body providing strategic oversight, inter-agency coordination, and policy guidance to ensure the effective implementation of the framework. It also provides for an Adoption Committee under the overall guidance of NLGC to recommend a mechanism for the adoption of an IT-based national traceability system in fisheries and aquaculture by different stakeholders, including fishermen, aquaculture farmers, and related stakeholders.

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