

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. 35
ANSWERED ON 22nd JULY, 2026

Women led cooperatives in fisheries

*35 **Shri Sana Sathish Babu :**

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

- (a) total number of women-led coastal cooperatives formed in sectors such as fisheries, seaweed cultivation and marine processing in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) number of women beneficiaries associated with such cooperatives and their socio-economic profile, year-wise and district-wise, with specific focus on Kakinada during last three years;
- (c) steps taken by Government to promote formation and strengthening of women-led coastal cooperatives in the country; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to expand women-led coastal cooperatives as part of the blue economy strategy in coastal States such as Andhra Pradesh, if so, the roadmap thereof?

ANSWER

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

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

Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 35 put in by Sana Sathish Babu, Member of Parliament, due for answer on 22nd July, 2026 regarding Women led cooperatives in fisheries:

(a) and (b): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the ongoing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) supports the formation of Fisheries Cooperative Societies across the country including in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that a total of 213 women-led coastal Cooperative Societies have been formed in the areas of fisheries, seaweed cultivation and marine processing, benefitting 27,447 beneficiaries across 12 districts, including Kakinada from 1st April 2021 to 15th June 2026 . The district wise details of women-led coastal cooperative societies along with the number of beneficiaries associated with them, are given at **Annexure-I**.

(c) For the promotion and strengthening of women-led coastal fisheries cooperatives across the country, the Government of India is continuously engaging with the States and Union Territories through various schemes and programmes. As part of these efforts, fisheries cooperatives are encouraged to register on the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) and are eligible for higher incentives, including performance grants of up to ₹2 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY). Women-led fisheries cooperatives are also accorded priority in the issuance of Access Passes for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Letters of Authorization (LoA) for High Seas fishing. Further, to facilitate greater participation of fisheries cooperatives in High Seas fishing, the application and renewal fee for the Letter of Authorization has been reduced from ₹25,000 to ₹5,000.

(d) As a part of Blue Economy, the Department of Fisheries, through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), has formulated an action plan to support the formation of 12,000 fisheries cooperatives across the country, including women-led Coastal Cooperative Societies in uncovered panchayats and villages. In addition, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Saha-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) a sub-scheme of PMMSY envisages for strengthening of 5500 Primary Fisheries Cooperative Societies across the country including women-led Fisheries Cooperative Societies, with mentoring, capacity building and need based financial support.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) and part (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 35 regarding Women led cooperatives in fisheries for answer on 22nd July, 2026

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Women-led coastal cooperatives Societies from 1st April 2021 to 15th June 2026	No. of Women Beneficiaries associated with Women led Coastal Cooperative Societies from 1st April 2021 to 15th June 2026
1.	Anakapalli	07	1334
2.	Bapatla	34	4332
3.	Kakinada	32	2409
4.	Konaseema	06	432
5.	Krishna	42	6197
6.	Prakasam	17	1516
7.	SPSR Nellore	9	4428
8.	Srikakulam	14	824
9.	Tirupati	16	1547
10.	Visakhapatnam	10	1208
11.	Vizianagaram	17	567
12.	West Godavari	9	2653
	TOTAL	213	27447