

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING & FISHERIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1097
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th JULY, 2018

**Open Sea Cage Farming under
Blue Revolution**

1097. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to promote "Open sea cage farming" under "Blue Revolution" Scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad has provided financial assistance of Rs.114.73 lakh to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in 2011 for implementation of a technology upgradation project on demonstration of open sea cage farming;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations therein;
- (d) whether the Government has a proposal to establish open sea cage farming across the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE & FARMER'S WELFARE:

(SMT. KRISHNA RAJ)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries provides financial assistance to the maritime State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) for promotion of mariculture activities namely Open Sea Cage Culture, Seaweed Cultivation, Bivalve Culture and Pearl Culture.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad had in October, 2008 sanctioned and released an amount of Rs 114.73 lakh to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi for setting up of 14 floating open sea cages as demonstration farms. It is reported that the entire operations of the 14 cages were performed through the fishermen group/societies/ villages under CMFRI scientist and technical officers at nine locations namely Cochin, Mangalore, Mumbai, Veraval, Balasore, Srikakulam, Kakinada, Kanyakumari and Chennai.

The main recommendations of the demonstration studies as reported are; (i) 100gm size juvenile fish is optimum for stocking in the cages, (ii) Seabass and Snappers can be co-cultured in the same cage for proper utilisation of the bottom and left over feed, (iii) Fattening of lobster in cages for short duration is a very lucrative business. Lobster can be grown upto maturity stage and (iv) Mullet, Chanos, Etroplus and high value herbivorous fishes can be polycultured.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries, during the past 3 financial year from 2014-15 to 2016-17, Central financial assistance to the tune of Rs.1062.72 lakh has been provided to intended State Governments and UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Andaman & Nicobar Administration for establishment of a total of 670 Nos of open sea cages. The broad benefits of open sea cage culture are; to create alternative livelihood to the fishermen, enhancement of marine fish production, income and employment generation to the local fishermen along with other multiple indirect benefits.
