

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.316
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2023

Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre

316. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of **FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING** मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the establishment of India's first Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre at Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) is a step towards fostering innovation in the fisheries sector and if so, the details thereof
- (b) whether the primary objective of the Atal Incubation Centre at KUFOS is to create a conducive environment for start-ups and innovative projects in the fisheries sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the Atal Incubation Centre aims to address challenges in marine ecosystems and fishing communities by developing cutting-edge technologies and solutions and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) Whether the Government has any plans to allocate additional resources or support for similar initiatives in different sectors to drive innovation and job creation in line with the Atal Incubation Centre for fisheries in Kerala and if so, the details including the total allotment and expenditure

ANSWER

MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. India's first Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has been established in the year 2016 under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, a Government of India's flagship initiative to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Over last 7 years, AIM has taken a holistic approach to ensure the creation of problem solving innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutes, private and MSME Sectors. AIM's flagship programs include establishing Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Community Innovation Centres, Atal Incubation Centres, and finding ultra-low-cost solutions to India's most intractable problems through Atal New India Challenges.

Moreover, Atal Innovation mission has been tasked with establishing and supporting world-class incubators in the academic, R&D centres and private sectors so that innovative start-ups can be encouraged and become scalable and also produce successful firms in fish harvest and post-harvest sectors that will make the AIC financially viable, commercialise new technologies and create new jobs in the fisheries sector.

(c): Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) – KUFOS has focussed on the challenges in the fisheries sector by promoting and commercialising innovative technologies in areas such as Aquaculture, Fish processing and technology, Aquatic animal health management, Marine Biology and Oceanography.

Startups incubated with Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) are facilitated services like - mentoring by subject matter experts, ideation and strategy sessions with mentors, industry and investor connect, legal and compliance support, global exposure, team building, access to lab facilities for prototype development and co-working space for daily operations. Further, the AIC also assists startups in filing patent applications, besides providing seed funds for developing their innovations.

(d): The mandate of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is to establish 101 Atal Incubation Centres across the country. Till date, AIM has established 72 Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) across the country. In line with AIC – KUFOS in the fisheries sector, AIM had successfully operationalized in other emerging sectors such as Defence, Textiles, Coffee, Cleantech, Dairy, and SDGs. The AICs are provided with a Grant-in-Aid of up to INR 10 Crore disbursed in three to five tranches for five years, covering the capital expenditure, core team, seed capital, and incubation services expenses.

Impact Numbers of AIC

- 72 AICs operationalised
- 3000+ Startups incubated.
- 900+ Startups are women-led.
- 30,000+ Jobs created by startups directly.
- 460+ IPs generated.
- 2200+ Mentors mobilised
- 4000+ Events conducted including 800+ capacity-building training programs.
- 2400+ Crores of external funds raised from private investors.

Further, under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Department of Fisheries, Government of India is supporting for innovations and innovative activities under Central Sector Scheme sub component/ Activities with 100% funding. It includes support of unit cost of Innovative projects- up to Rs. 1 crore, Incubation Centres- up to Rs. 3 crores, Technology Demonstration project- up to Rs. 2 crores, Startups up to Rs. 50 lakhs and Pilot projects- up to Rs. 2 crores.