

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2826  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**Seaweed Production**

**2826. Shri Naveen Jindal:**

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

- (a) the details of present seaweed production in the country and utilization;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to strengthen the seaweed farming activities in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the challenge of seed availability in sufficient quantity for the commercially valuable species?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING  
(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)**

(a) India has significant potential for seaweed cultivation. As reported by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) total seaweed production in the country was 72,385 tonnes (wet weight) in 2023. The main cultivated species are *Kappaphycus alvarezii* and *Gracilaria edulis*, which are widely used for carrageenan and agar production. Seaweed is also utilized in food, biofertilizers, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, animal feed, and biofuels.

(b) In June' 2020, the Government of India launched a flagship scheme namely, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with total investment of Rs. 20,050 crore towards promoting the fisheries sector in the country. Promotion of seaweed cultivation is one of the priority activity under PMMSY. Department of Fisheries, Government of India (DoF, GoI) has approved the seaweed projects worth ₹194.09 crore, with a central share of ₹98.97 crore including support provided to beneficiaries for installation of Rafts, Monolines/Tubenets, establishment of a Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu, Pre-feasibility Assessment Studies on seaweed farming, awareness and training programs in various States and Union Territories under the PMMSY. Besides, Mandapam Regional Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has been designated as a Centre of Excellence for seaweed development and the Lakshadweep Islands has been designated as a Seaweed Cluster.

(c) DoF, GoI has approved projects under the PMMSY for establishment of Seaweed Seedbanks in Tamil Nadu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Lakshadweep. DoF, GoI on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 has also issued the Guidelines for Import of Live Seaweeds into India, allowing the import of high-quality seed strains.

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