

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2841
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2025**

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

2841. Dr. Shashi Tharoor

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

- (a) whether the collaboration of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute with the State Fisheries Department in Kerala will create sustainable and alternative income opportunities for coastal communities by boosting coastal aquaculture and related marine projects, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of coastal communities and fishermen expected to directly benefit from these initiatives;
- (c) the details of the projected percentage increase in income or employment opportunities in these communities;
- (d) the details of scope and scale of planned skill development programs participants and duration for marine aquaculture; and
- (e) the details and number of designs to enhance local capacity in marine aquaculture?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Government of Kerala informed that the collaboration between the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the State Fisheries Department of Kerala is expected to create sustainable and alternative income opportunities for coastal communities by enhancing coastal aquaculture and other marine conservation and management related projects. The collaboration can enable the State for undertaking mariculture activities along the coast of Kerala, especially studying the feasibility for undertaking open-sea cage farming by obtaining technical advice and also quality seeds of cultivable high-value fish species such as cobia and pompano, thereby opening up avenues for alternate income source to fishermen groups.

The assistance of CMFRI is also sought by the state in preparing the marine spatial planning and exploring the possibilities for undertaking farming of oysters and seaweed to diversify income sources for fishermen besides providing continuous scientific and technical assistance to fish farmers. The technical expertise of CMFRI is also being availed for installation of artificial reefs off the coastal fishing villages under PMMSY scheme which ensures habitat rejuvenation and sustainable livelihood to the traditional fishermen. Service of CMFRI is also sought for provision of quality seeds of Pompano and cobia for undertaking sea ranching programmes and also for Open Sea cage farming. The technical expertise of seed production of CMFRI is also made use by State for setting up marine finfish hatcheries in the State.

The collaboration of CMFRI is also desired by Department in statistical data analysis of the marine fish production in Kerala and also the technical advice is for continuing the regulations such as Minimum Legal Size of commercially important fishes besides other aspects of conservation and management measures for ensuring sustainability of marine fishery resources. CMFRI also provides training programmes for fishermen and entrepreneurs in modern aquaculture techniques, encouraging breeding and trade of ornamental fish. Further, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi reported ICAR-CMFRI conducts regularly short-term skill development programmes/ trainings on various mariculture technologies for the benefit of famers, youth and entrepreneurs.

In addition, under the flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMMSY) during last four years (2020-21 to 2023-24) and current financial year (2024-25) the Department of Fisheries, Gol has accorded approval to the fisheries developmental proposals of Government of Kerala worth Rs.1358.10 Crore with central share of Rs. 574.90 Crore. Central funds of Rs.344.15 Crore has been also released to Kerala during this period.