

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4268
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th August, 2025

Seaweed Cultivation

4268. Shri B K Parthasarathi :

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

- (a) the details regarding the volume of seaweed cultivated in the country during the last five years, year and State-wise;
- (b) the details regarding the list of locations in Andhra Pradesh where seaweed is cultivated;
- (c) the details regarding the locations identified for offshore and onshore seaweed cultivation as per feasibility studies conducted by the Government;
- (d) whether the Government has carried out any assessment of the impact of climate change on the yield and productivity of seaweed cultivation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise especially for Andhra Pradesh; and
- (f) the measures being taken by the Government to develop the climate-resilient varieties of seaweed germplings?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Indian coastline of 11,099 km with favourable conditions has immense potential for seaweed cultivation. As per ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), India has a potential seaweed production capacity of about 9.7 million tonnes annually. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India (DoF, GoI) is implementing a flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and seaweed cultivation is one of the priority activity identified under the PMMSY to support employment generation and additional source of income to fishermen and coastal communities. The PMMSY *inter-alia* envisages support towards seaweed cultivation and its related activities, which are under implementation in the coastal States/Union Territories (UTs). Under the PMMSY, during last 5 years (2020-25) the projects worth ₹195 crore have been approved, including the establishment of a Seaweed Park (₹127.71 crore) in Tamil Nadu. Besides, financial assistance is provided under PMMSY for installation of seaweed culture units (rafts, monoline/tubenet systems), establishment of seaweed seed banks, post-harvest facilities such as drying platforms, baling units and storage godowns, laboratories for water testing and germplasm quarantine, and training complexes with incubation centres, pre-feasibility assessment studies, awareness creation, training and capacity building programs in various States/Union Territories (UTs). Furthermore, Lakshadweep has been notified as a Seaweed Cluster, and the Mandapam Regional Centre of the ICAR-CMFRI has been notified as the Centre of Excellence for promoting seaweed farming, training and research activities.

The Guidelines for import of seaweed germplasm have been issued by the DoF, Gol. Besides, the NITI Ayog has released a Seaweed Policy Report for the overall development of this promising sector in the country. An Institutional mechanism has been established by the DoF, Gol in the form of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Seaweed Development for coordinated development of this important sector in the country. The seaweed cultivation is mainly reported from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Lakshadweep, whereas the pilot scale projects have been undertaken in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. As a result of these initiatives, the seaweed production has increased from 18,890 tonnes in 2015 to 74,083 tonnes in 2024.

The Research Institutions have identified 384 suitable sites covering 24,707 hectares across the coastline of India for seaweed cultivation including 40 sites (1355 ha.) along the Andhra Pradesh coastline. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that seaweed sector in Andhra Pradesh is still at the pilot stage, and the pilot studies of seaweed cultivation are taking place at following 04 locations:

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Mandal</i>	<i>Location</i>
1	Srikakulam	Etcherla	Budagatlapalem
2	Visakhapatnam	Bheemili	R K Beach
3	Bapatla	Chinaganjam	Yetimoga
4	SPSR Nellore	Ulavapadu	Ramayapatnam

(d) to (f): The ICAR-CMFRI has informed that studies are being undertaken to improve the farming techniques and production efficiency of different species of seaweeds viz., Kappaphycus and Gracilaria. As the seaweed sector in Andhra Pradesh is still at nascent stage, no such studies have been taken up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government is promoting advanced cultivation techniques through tissue/spore culture, establishing multi-species seed banks, facilitating import of quality germplasm, and strengthening R&D through ICAR-CMFRI Centre of Excellence, CSIR-CSMCRI, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), etc. Besides, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India (DoF, Gol) in October, 2024 has issued the 'Guidelines for Import of Live Seaweeds into India' to facilitate import of high-quality seed materials or germplasm from abroad, enabling domestic multiplication for ensuring farmers have access to quality seed stock.
