

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3997.
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2026.**

GI TAG

3997. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has been received any proposals for granting a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kuttanad Pearl Spot (Karimeen) from the Kuttanad region of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the present status of the application, including details of examination, objections (if any) and expected timeline for registration;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study on the economic benefits of granting GI status to Kuttanad Pearl Spot, particularly for traditional fishermen and aqua farmers in the region, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to promote branding, export potential and value addition of region-specific fisheries products such as Pearl Spot from Vembanad and adjacent backwater ecosystems; and
- (e) whether any financial or technical assistance is proposed to support producer groups, cooperatives or self-help groups in securing GI registration and post-registration market promotion?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a) to (c):** No application has been received for registration of Kuttanad Pearl Spot (Karimeen) from the Kuttanad region of Kerala. Geographical Indication (GI) tag is granted by Geographical Indications (GI) Registry, a statutory body under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry as per the provisions of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, on establishing that the quality, reputation or other characteristics of the goods are essentially attributable to their geographical origin. The registration process is voluntary, and an application must be made by a Producers' Association or a relevant authority representing the producers under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999, and Rules, 2002. The process

of GI registration does not entail conducting any study on the economic benefits of granting a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to a product.

- (d): The Government promotes branding, export potential and value addition of fisheries products through schemes under Department of Fisheries, such as the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), which support development of post-harvest infrastructure including cold chains, fishing harbours and fish landing centres and promote value addition and export of fisheries products. In addition, under PMMSY, a brood bank for Pearl Spot has been approved for the Government of Kerala during 2020-21 with an outlay of ₹500 lakh to support production and development of this species.

Further, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Department of Commerce, undertakes measures to promote Indian seafood in overseas markets, including participation in international seafood exhibitions, organization of buyer–seller and reverse buyer–seller meets, delegations and promotional events in association with Indian Missions abroad, and support to exporters for participation in international trade fairs.

MPEDA also implements financial assistance schemes for infrastructure development and value addition in the fisheries sector. These schemes are not state/region-specific and can be availed by exporters to set up new units, expand existing production capacity for value addition, and diversify value-added production, including branding and preparation of new value-added products, which can also be utilised for developing value-added products from Pearl Spot.

- (e): The measures / schemes initiated by Government to provide financial or technical assistance to support producer groups, cooperatives or self-help groups in securing GI registration and for post-registration market promotion is placed at **Annexure-A**.

ANNEXURE-A

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3997 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2026.

1. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), through the IPR component of the MSME Innovative Scheme, provides support for protection and commercialization of Intellectual Property, including for Geographical Indications (GI). Under the scheme, the eligible applicants may receive reimbursement of 100% of the actual cost incurred for GI registration, subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 2.00 lakh per registered GI. Further, through implementing agencies, i.e. Intellectual Property Facilitation Centres (IPFCs) under the scheme, the applicants are provided with end-to-end GI filing support.
2. The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, provides financial assistance of Rs.1.50 lakh for effective enforcement of GI registration and/or actual expenditure incurred in legal cases for the protection of GIs, as approved by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).
3. NABARD launched a dedicated scheme in 2019 titled "Financial Assistance towards Interventions in Geographical Indications." NABARD provides support for registration of Geographical Indications (GIs) and also facilitates post-registration interventions such as registration of Authorized Users, marketing support, skill enhancement, documentation, capacity building and awareness campaigns.
4. Through the amendment to the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2002, notified on 03.11.2025, the fee for filing GI applications and related processes has been reduced by 80 percent. This reform reduces the financial burden on artisans, farmers, cooperatives and traditional producer groups, making GI registration and renewal more affordable and encouraging wider participation in the GI protection system.
5. DPIIT provides financial assistance under its initiative for promotion of Geographical Indications (GIs). Under this initiative, financial assistance is provided as grant-in-aid to eligible agencies such as Central/State Government agencies, industrial and artisan clusters, GI facilitation centres, registered societies/organizations representing producers of GI goods, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, and National industry associations. for activities relating to promotion and awareness of GI products such as domestic and international exhibitions, buyer–seller meets, brand promotion events, awareness programmes, capacity and skill development programmes etc.
6. Apart from above, GI Registry assists Producer's Associations or authorised bodies in addressing the deficiencies found in the applications and assists them to complete the application. Further, the GI Registry provide handhold support to the applicant throughout the process. For more assistance, applicants can contact the GI Registry at e-mail: gir-ipo@nic.in or 044-22502030.
