

Regarding need to constitute a committee to control shrimp prices in the country-laid

HRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU (NARSAPURAM): For the last few years, Shrimp farming in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, has been suffering from unusual series of crises.

India produces about 9 lakh tons of shrimp every year and earning and is contributing \$8 billion to the Indian economy. Indian shrimp farming and export market constitutes about Rs. 44,000 crores. Surat is the 3rd largest Shrimp Export Market in the country. China is the biggest importer of Shrimp from India followed by US and EU markets. In spite of Government's discounts and subsidies, there is no much growth in the business.

The aqua farmers are reeling under losses due to meagre support from the Government and unfavourable policies being formed by the Centre and State Governments. Shrimp farmers are mulling to go on culture holiday subsequent to slash in electricity subsidy and skyrocketing input costs, couple with an unexpected plunge in the prices of their produce.

Processing units have stopped procuring stocks as exporters are not paying the MSP prices fixed by the Government.

The fishing industry in Andhra Pradesh is facing problems as a result of syndicate formed by the shrimp processing and exporting companies to control the prices.

In view of the above, I suggest that the Government constitute a body in the lines of National Egg Coordination Committee to control shrimp prices in the Country.

