



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING
(2024-25)**

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)
(DEMAND NO. 43)**

TENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
MARCH, 2025/ PHALGUNA 1946 (SAKA)

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FOOD PROCESSING**

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(DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)
(DEMAND NO. 43)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.03.2025

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 19.03.2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
MARCH, 2025/ PHALGUNA 1946 (SAKA)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING**

18th Lok Sabha (2024-25)

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
4. Shri Raj kumar Chahar
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RAJYA SABHA

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29. Shri P. P. Suneer
30. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala
31. Vacant *

** Vacant vice Shri Krishan Lal Panwar who resigned from Rajya Sabha on 14.10.2024.*

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Shri Srinivasulu Gunda | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri Khakhai Zou | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Ashwaghosh Bhaurao Lokhande | - | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Tenth Report on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries).

2. The Committee under Rule 331E.(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha considered the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries), which were laid on the table of the House on 11 February, 2025.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) at their Sitting held on 28 February, 2025. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 18 March, 2025.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the Recommendations/ Observations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officials of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information that they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department.

**New Delhi;
18 March, 2025
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)**

**Charanjit Singh Channi
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Agriculture
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing**

ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Actual Expenditure
A & N Islands	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
ANB	Atmanirbhar Bharat
BE	Budget Estimates
CSS	Central Sector Scheme
CIFA	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture
CIFNET	Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training
CRCFV	Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages
DoF	Department of Fisheries
EEs	Eligible Entities
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zones
FIDF	Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund
FSI	Fishery Survey of India
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
GVA	Gross Value Added
GAIS	Group Accident Insurance Scheme
KCC	Kisan Credit Card
MEP	Monthly Expenditure Plan
MT	Metric Tonne
MMD	Mercantile Marine Department
MSK	Matsya Seva Kendra
NABARD	National Bank on Agriculture and Rural Development
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NLEs	Nodal Loaning Entities
NFDP	National Fisheries Development Portal
PMMSY	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
PMMKSSY	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana
QEP	Quarterly Expenditure Plan
RE	Revised Estimates
SNA	Single Nodal Agency
SCSP	Scheduled Caste Sub Plan
TSP	Tribal Sub-Plan
UC	Utilization Certificate

PART – I

CHAPTER – I

A. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Fisheries was carved out of the Fishery Division from the erstwhile Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in June, 2019 with a vision to achieve “ecologically healthy, economically viable and socially inclusive fisheries that contributes towards doubling fishers and fish farmers’ incomes and economic prosperity in a sustainable, responsible and equitable manner”. The main objectives of the Department are to enhance fish production and productivity on an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable basis, tap the hitherto untapped potential of the Indian fisheries, conservation of aquatic resources and genetic diversity, preservation of health of ecosystems, strengthening of infrastructure in harvest, post-harvest, value-addition & marketing and upliftment of fishers and aqua-farmers communities with gainful employment opportunities and capacity strengthening.

1.2 The Department is responsible for matters relating to formulation of policies and schemes pertaining to Development of Inland, Marine and Coastal Fisheries and Fishery Institutes which includes four subordinate institutions and two autonomous bodies *viz*:

Subordinate Institutions

- a) **Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai.**
- b) **Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi.**
- c) **National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology & Training (NIFPHATT), Kochi.**
- d) **Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bengaluru.**

Autonomous Bodies

- a) **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.**
- b) **Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai.**

1.3 Currently, India ranks second in fisheries and Aquaculture production in the world accounting for 8% of the global production and growing at an average annual growth rate of 8.81%. The Fishery sector in India contributed around 1.32% percent to the

National Gross Value Added (GVA) and 7.25% to the Agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) during the FY 2023-24. The total fish production during the FY 2023-24 in the country is estimated at 184.02 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) with a contribution of 139.07 Lakh Ton from Inland sector and 44.95 Lakh Ton from Marine sector. The Sector also plays a major role in foreign exchange earnings where the exports of marine products stood at 17.8 Lakh Ton of seafood, valued at Rs. 60,524 crore during the FY 2023-24. Frozen shrimp continued to be the major item of export in terms of quantity and value, accounting for a share of 40.19% in quantity during the FY 2023-24 and shrimp variety *i.e.* L.Vannamei contributed around 87 % of total shrimp exports from the country.

1.4 The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is the flagship scheme implemented from 2020-21 and is also a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package. PMMSY intends to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable development of fisheries sector with a total investment of Rs.20,050 Crore comprising of central share of Rs. 9,407 Crore and State share of Rs 4,880 Crore and Beneficiary contribution of Rs. 5,763 Crore initially for a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 which has now been extended up to 2025-26 in all States/Union territories. The Scheme aims to address the critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management framework and fishers' welfare. It also intends to address issues like low productivity in Inland aquaculture, disease, sustainability of marine fisheries, sanitary and phyto-sanitary matters that impact the competitiveness of India's exports. From the FY 2023-24, a sub scheme under PMMSY namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) is being implemented, with an aim to formalize the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries' micro and small enterprises, for a period of 4 years *i.e.* from 2023-24 to 2026-27, with an outlay of Rs. 6000 crore with 100% Central Govt funding. Creation of National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) and Mobile App is a key component of PM-MKSSY.

1.5 The Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) was launched in 2018-19 up to 2022-23. Recently, the Implementation period of FIDF has been extended for another 3 years *i.e.* from 2023-24 to 2025-26 with credit guarantee cover upto 25% of the project cost with ceiling of Rs. 12.50 crore for individual and cooperatives projects. FIDF intends to address the gaps in fisheries infrastructure with a

total corpus of Rs. 7522.48 crore by providing concessional finance/loans to the Eligible Entities (EEs), including State Governments/UT Administrations and State entities for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities. Interest subvention of up to 3% *p.a* is also provided under FIDF and the repayment period spans to 12 years including moratorium of 2 years. The concessional finance under FIDF is provided by the Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs) namely.

- a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- b) National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and
- c) All Scheduled Banks.

CHAPTER – II

A. ANALYSIS OF DEMAND NO. 43

(i) Allocations and Expenditure

The data on allocations proposed by the Dept, Actually allocated by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Revised Estimates (REs) and actual expenditure incurred by the Dept. since 2020-21 as furnished by the Department of Fisheries is as follows:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Allocation proposed by the Dept	Allocation by the M/o Finance at BE	Percentage increase at BE stage over the previous FY	Allocation by the M/o Finance at RE	Expenditure made by the Dept	Shortfall
2020-21	3050.25	804.75		700	655.74	44.26
2021-22	2581.63	1220.84	51%	1407.29	1361.14	46.15
2022-23	2186.73	2118.47	73%	1624.18	1365.24	258.94
2023-24	2688.47	2248.77	6%	1701.00	1336.18	364.82
2024-25	2755.03	2616.44	16%	1666.47	982.07*	684.4
2025-26		2703.67	3%			

**Funds sanctioned on 25.01.2025*

2.2 During the Financial Year 2024-25, there has been a significant reduction of 36% in the funds allocated to the Department at RE stage. When asked about the reasons for this reduction, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The reduction in fund allocation at the Revised Estimates (RE) stage for the Financial Year 2024-25 is primarily due to the slow pace of expenditure by the Department against the Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25. Additionally, factors such as reprioritization of government spending, revenue constraints and underutilization of allocated funds in earlier quarters may have contributed to this reduction. The Department is actively working towards improving fund utilization, accelerating project implementation, and ensuring efficient disbursement to avoid such reductions in the future. The reasons responsible for less expenditure under PMMSY includes (i) Notification of alternative funds flow mechanism by DoE (ii) Notification of SNA and SPARSH made the fund

flow slower (iii) Restriction in release of central share of 25% against the central share approved (iv) Delay in compilation of pre-implementation activity of SNA/SNA-SPARSH and preparedness of the States/UTs for implementation (v) Slow pace of project implementation by States/UTs (vi) Delay in contribution of state share and (vii) Delay in completion of approval process at State/UT level. Also, the lower actuals under PMMSY for Department of Fisheries is directly related to the pace of funds utilization and implementation of the scheme by all the States/UTs”.

2.3 From the FY 2020-21 onwards, the Department has been unable to spend the complete amount allocated to them at RE stage and the shortfall has been increasing consistently over the years. When asked about the reasons for the increasing underutilization of allocated amount over the years and its effects on the performance of the schemes of the Department and its outcomes, the Department in a written reply stated the following:

“The major part of funds allocated to the Department of Fisheries are towards implementation of schemes for development of fisheries and aquaculture in all the State/UTs. The underutilization/shortfalls are the gaps between fund allocation at Revised Estimate (RE) stage and actual expenditure. The reasons responsible for increasing in shortfall since 2021-22 includes (i) Notification of alternative funds flow mechanism by DoE (ii) Notification of SNA and SPARSH made the fund flow slower (iii) Restriction in release of central share of 25% against the central share approved (iv) Delay in compilation of pre-implementation activity of SNA/SNA-SPARSH and preparedness of the States/UTs for implementation (v) Slow pace of project implementation by States/UTs (vi) Delay in contribution of state share and (vii) Delay in completion of approval process at State/UT level. Also, the lower actuals under PMMSY for Department of Fisheries is directly related to the pace of funds utilization and implementation of the scheme by all the States/UTs. This dependency accumulates the central liability and the slower the output of the activities undertaken by the States/UTs”.

2.4 More than three years have passed since 31st July, 2021, when the revised procedure for release of Central funds was introduced by the Department of Expenditure, MoF. Now a new system has also been introduced i.e. SNA-SPARSH from 1st, June 2024. However, the Department is still stating the same reasons for underutilization of funds and slow pace of expenditure by the Department. On being

asked, if the Department has chalked out any timeline when these newly introduced financial systems would be streamlined, the Department stated the following:

“In order to bring more efficiency in cash management at both Centre and States levels, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide OM No.1(27)/PFMS/2020 dated 13th July 2023 has notified an alternative fund flow mechanism for releasing central funds to the State Governments on “Just-in-Time” basis under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). This new system has been named as SNA-SPARSH wherein 28 schemes including PMMSY have been on boarded with effect from 1st June, 2024. Under this new system, 26 States for on-boarding on the SNA SPARSH platform. During the year 2023-24, only 5 states were on-boarded under SNA-SPARSH, however, additional 21 states have on-boarded during 2024-25. Lack of understanding by the states to adhere to the compliances of SNA-SPARSH, transition phase between SNA and SNA-SPARSH, non-compliance of the Guidelines in time by the States, delay in contributing the state matching share by the State Governments made the process slow for utilization of funds by the states/UTs and release of central financial assistance also. After regular intervention, monitoring with all the States, we are hopeful that in upcoming days the pace of fund flow will accelerate for better implementation of the PMMSY.”

2.5 On a query if the Department has explored the possibility of asking the State Governments to allocate first their share of budget for the schemes/programmes being implemented and thereafter, the Centre can release its matching share and ensuring that States who perform well are rewarded by release of additional funds, the Department submitted the following reply?

“In the beginning of the financial year, the Department of Fisheries, communicates the State-wise and agency-wise allocation of the budget made available under the PMMSY to all the States/UTs. The State Governments have been advised from time-to-time for timely contribution of their matching share in implementation of the approved projects under the PMMSY. The State-wise and agency-wise allocation has been reviewed regularly and re-allocation/revision in funds allocation made depending on the States performance and utilization allocation funds. This has been regularly discussed in various meetings held with the State/UT Governments. The concepts of rewarding of the States who perform well by enhanced allocation and release of central funds is also adopted under the PMMSY”.

2.6 When asked about the measures contemplated by the Department to adhere to the guidelines of Monthly/Quarterly Expenditure plan, the Department submitted the following reply:

“In the Detailed Demands for Grants, expenditure of 25% in each quarter has been indicated. In order to speed up pace of expenditure during remaining period of FY 2024-25 under the PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries has been working in close coordination with the States and UTs and advising them for early compliance of the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance, expediting the project activities and timely contribution of the State share etc. Under PMMSY, based on the compliance of eligibility criteria as per the C-SNA/SNA/SNA-SPARSH guidelines by the States/UTs and other implementing agencies, Department prepares the monthly/quarterly expenditure plan, which has also been reviewed by Secretary (Fy) on regular basis”.

2.7 In a reply to the query about the percentage contribution of Fisheries Sector to the National Agricultural GVA, and, if the Budget allocated to the Department during the FY 2025-26 is in proportion to the contribution of the fisheries sector to National Economy along with the measures envisaged by the Department to increase its Budgetary Allocation, the Department stated the following:

“As of the fiscal year 2022-23, the fisheries sector in India contributed approximately 1.32% to the National Gross Value Added (GVA) and 7.25% to the agricultural GVA at current prices, reflecting its expanding role in India's economy.

This marks an increase from 0.95% in the National GVA and 5.10% in the agricultural GVA in 2013-14. The sector has demonstrated consistent growth, with an average annual growth rate of 8.98% (at constant prices) between 2014-15 and 2022-23.

In Budget Estimates 2025-26, the Department has been allocated highest ever total annual budgetary support of Rs. 2703.67 crore. The overall allocation for the financial year 2025-26 has increased by 3.32% in comparison to the allocation of Rs. 2616.44 crore made during the last year 2024-25. The allocation of Rs. 2465 crore for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana during the year 2025-26 has been increased by 4.8% in comparison to the allocation made during the year 2024-25(BE). Comparing the budget allocation to the sector's contribution to the national economy, the fisheries sector's share of the total budget is approximately 0.06%”.

2.8 Fisheries Sector share of the total budget allocation for 2025-26 is approximately 0.06%. On being asked specifically if the allocation increase of 3.32% in the FY 2025-26 over the previous FY is sufficient keeping in mind the sector's growth potential, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Yes sir, In Budget Estimates 2025-26, the Department has been allocated highest ever total annual budgetary support of Rs. 2703.67 crore. The overall allocation for the financial year 2025-26 has increased by 3.32% in comparison to the allocation of Rs. 2616.44 crore made during the last year 2024-25”.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

2.9 The data on BE, RE and actual expenditure since 2020-21 as furnished by the Dept is as follows:

<i>(Rs. In crore)</i>						
Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry	Short fall in actuals vis- a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE	Actuals		
2021-22	2196.00	1000.00	1200.00	1169.14	30.86	97.42%
2022-23	1879.00	1879.00	1410.00	1169.86	240.14	82.96%
2023-24	2357.00	2000.00	1500.00	1148.88	351.12	76.59 %
2024-25	2362.00	2352.00	1500.00	867.10*	632.9	57.80%
2025-26		2465.00				

**As on 25.01.2025*

2.10 Pointing out to the declining trend in actual utilisation of funds allocated for PMMSY from the FY 2021-22 till 2024-25 and utilization of only 57.80 % of the total funds allocated during the first three quarters of FY 2024-25, and further inquiry about the reasons for this underutilization, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department had achieved expenditure target to the tune of 99 per cent and 97 per cent for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22, respectively. However, after implementation of the revised procedure of release of fund from 31st July, 2021 by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and compliance of such procedures by the States/UTs, the speed of funds flow to the State/UTs for implementation of PMMSY projects was slightly reduced, during the financial year 2022-23 & 2023-24. Some of the important points that were caused hindrance for smooth utilization of funds are as below:

- (a) *In order to bring more efficiency in cash management at both Centre and States levels, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide OM No.1(27)/PFMS/2020 dated 13th July 2023 has notified an alternative fund*

flow mechanism for releasing central funds to the State Governments on “Just-in-Time” basis under Centrally Sponsored Schemes(CSS). This new system has been named as SNA-SPARSH wherein 28 schemes including PMMSY have been on boarded with effect from 1st June, 2024. Under this new system, 26 States for on-boarding on the SNA SPARSH platform.

- (b) Lack of understanding by the states to adhere to the compliances of SNA-SPARSH.*
- (c) Transition phase between SNA and SNA-SPARSH mad the process slow for the States to adopt the new procedure.*
- (d) Most of the potential states are in SNA-SPARSH. Non- compliance of the Guidelines in time by the States are one of the major point for slow expenditure.*
- (e) The revised procedure of Finance Ministry (Single Nodal Agency), amongst the others, also stipulates that the center funds should be released in equal four installments (25% each installment). It further stipulates that release of subsequent installment will be subject to utilization of available funds in SNA account up to the level of 75%, delayed release of funds to the States.*
- (f) The State Governments have taken time to transfer of Central and State funds to SNA account and such processes in the state is the major obstruction in the way of smooth utilization of central funds for the states where SNA is implemented.*
- (g) It is to be added that to comply with the revised procedure, the States took some time for preparedness, adaptability of new procedure and dislocation with the revised financial procedure.*
- (h) The other factors attributed for low utilisation of allocated fund under PMMSY was delay in contributing the state matching share by the State Governments.*
- (i) Non-receipt of physical and financial progress (UCs) on time from the States/UTs and other stakeholders.*
- (j) Most of the fisheries development activity like Fishing harbour, Fish Landing Centre, establishment of fish brood bank, establishment of feed mills, Integrated Aqua park, Construction of fish wholesale/retail markets, Integrated Development of Reservoirs etc. are of long gestation period and statutory clearances are required which takes time”.*

2.11 On being asked specifically about the course of action planned by the Department, to successfully implement all the components of PMMSY, if it is not able to completely utilise the allocated funds, the Department stated the following reply:

“Department of Fisheries, Government of India has accorded approval of projects amounting Rs. 20,990.79 crore with Rs. 8,926.33 crore under PMMSY

during last 4 years and current financial year. Out of the Central share approved, an amount of Rs. 4,670.79 crore have been released to all the States/UTs and other implementing agencies. In order to increase the pace of expenditure, Department of Fisheries also relaxed the utilization of unspent funds against any approved activities by the states/UTs under PMMSY. The Department has been working in close coordination with the States and these issues have been addressed from time to time. As such, better performance in the upcoming days is expected”.

2.12 Pointing out to the 25% cap on spending in each quarter of FY, when asked about the plan of the Department on spending the remaining 632.9 crores under PMMSY during the FY 2024-25, which is more than 40% of the allocated budget, the Department submitted the following reply:

“A Proposal relates to relaxation of QEP/MEP in the 4th quarter of the FY 2024-25 has been submitted to Budget Division of the Department for onward submission to Ministry of Finance for consideration. Out of the total Revised Allocation received i.e Rs. 1666.47 crore, an amount of Rs. 1500.00 crore have been allocated for PMMSY. An amount of Rs. 966.32 crore have been approved including mother sanction of Rs. 729 crore to 26 states on-boarded in SNA-SPARSH. Department of Fisheries is monitoring the progress with all the States/UTs and implementing agencies. Physical meetings with individual States/UTs have been conducted by the Department to understand the issues and to expedite the implementation along with the funds utilization”.

(iii) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

2.13 The data on BE, RE and actual expenditure since 2021-22 as furnished by the Department is as follows:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry Actuals	Short fall in actuals vis- a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE			
2021-22	26.10	23.84	18.04	18	.04	99.77%
2022-23	19	19	13	13	00	100%
2023-24	19	19	14.80	14.80	00	100%
2024-25	19	16.78	11.50	9.00	2.50	78.26%
2025-26		18				

2.14 On a query about the allocation proposed by the Department for National Fisheries Development Board for the FY 2025-26, the Department gave the following reply:

“Being a nodal agency under PMMSY, an amount of Rs. 3.00 crore has been allocated to National Fisheries Development Board for Training, Awareness, Exposure & Capacity programme as a part of the Annual Action Plan during the FY 2025-26”.

2.15 On being asked about the reasons for reduction of funds allocated to NFDB at RE stage by 23% during the FY 24-25 as compared to the RE of previous FY i.e. 23-24, even after utilizing 100 % of allocated funds during FY 21-22 to 23-24, the Department submitted the following reply:

“During RE stage, the funds of Department of Fisheries has been reduces significantly by Ministry of Finance, accordingly, the allocation of funds to NFDB also reduced proportionally”.

2.16 When inquired if the funds allocated to NFD Bare sufficient enough to undertake the task of imparting Training, Awareness and Capacity Building of fishermen of the Country and the measures taken by the Department to pursue for increased budget allocation for NFDB, the Department stated the following reply:

“In addition to the allocation of funds for establishment expenditure, being an implementing agency for various activities, NFDB receives funds from PMMSY for activities like including Training, Awareness and Capacity Building of fishermen. As per the Annual Action Plan received from NFDB, the allocation of funds made and funds also released accordingly to NFDB. The programmes will comprise of webinars, half-day awareness programmes, one-day awareness programmes, 3-days and 5-day training, skill development/upgradation programmes, one-day workshops, conferences, specialized training programs, exposure visits, fish festivals, melas, etc. on different fisheries and aquaculture development activities. NFDB has sanctioned the awareness/training programmes to 104 no. of Institutes/States/UTs/Fishery Universities/Colleges/AOCs/ AAHLs/ KVKs with a total of 3028 no. of webinars/ training programmes and sanctioned an amount of Rs. 19. 35 crore for the benefit of 2,92,315 of participants under PMMSY during last 4 years and current financial year”.

(iv) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

2.17 The data on BE, RE and actuals incurred since 2021-22 under the scheme Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund as furnished by the Department is as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry	Short fall in actuals vis- a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE			
2021-22	25	15	10	10	00	100%
2022-23	25	12	12	12	00	100%
2023-24	25	25	25	24.40	.06	97.6%
2024-25	50	30	25	7.38*	17.62	
2025-26		30				

* N.B. Funds sanctioned on 25.01.25

2.18 On a query about measures taken by the Department to utilize the total allocation under FIDF, since the Department has been able to utilize only Rs 7.38 crore of the allocated funds during the FY 2024-25 i.e. after the end of three quarters of the FY 2024-25, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Now CNA is under implementation, only 25% can be released at a time in the CNA account, as such Integrated Finance Division has concurred an amount of Rs. 7.38 crore. However, NABARD has raised an advance amount of additional Rs.15.00 crore during the Current FY. NABARD has already disbursed an amount of Rs. 990.56 crore and more than Rs. 1000 crore expecting more disbursement to the States. The interest subvention against the funds already disbursed is approximately Rs. 30 crore for an year. Upon submission of UCs by NABARD, the remaining funds shall be released to NABARD. It is expected that the entire funds allocated shall be utilized by March, 2025”.

(v) Assistance to Fisheries Institutes.

2.19 Data on BE, RE and actuals incurred from 2021-22 to 2024-25 under Assistance to Fisheries Institutes as furnished by the Department is as follows:

(Rs. In crore)						
Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry	Short fall in actuals vis- a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE	Actuals		
2021-22	296.52	149.77	125.77	112.94	12.83	89.79
2022-23	230.60	175.34	160.58	144.06	16.52	89.71
2023-24	248.93	169.24	125.08	112.46	12.62	89.91
2024-25	281.33	143.02	84.77	69.92	14.85	
2025-26		142.02				

2.20 When asked about the reasons for underutilization of funds allocated under Assistance to Fisheries Institutes from the FY 2021-22 up to the FY 2024-25, the Department gave the following reply:

“Out of the total funds allocated to Assistance to Fisheries Institutes, more than 76% of the funds earmarked to two institutes namely Fishery Survey of India(FSI) and Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET).In addition to the regular establishment expenditure, the expenditure of FSI, CIFNET is the operation and maintenance of its 14 fishery survey and training vessels. However, during the 2024-25 financial year, only one-two vessels were in operation only. Additionally, the repair and maintenance work could not be completed due to the lack of clearance from DG Shipping via notification regarding Registration, Survey and Certification of FSI Vessels”.

2.21 On a query about the RE allocation of the Department for the FY 2024-25 been cut down drastically by almost 30 % as compared to FY 2023-24 and the reasons and measures taken in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The RE allocation was reduces significantly due to less expenditure made by the Fisheries Institutes. The reasons for less expenditure has been mentioned at point 6 (i) above. The Department is following the matter with DG Shipping to get necessary clearances which can expedite the operational of fishery survey and training vessels”.

B. STATUS OF UTILISATION CERTIFICATES

2.22 With regard to the data on pendency of Utilisation Certificates under PMMSY for the financial years 2020-21 to 2023-24, the reasons for such pendency which has seen consistent increase over the years and the steps taken to address this issue, the Department submitted the following reply:

S. No	Status of Pending Utilization Certificates under PMMSY- All States/UTs	PMMSY			
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		24.48	79.63	316.17	309.00

(Rs. in crore)

“As stated earlier, the pace of utilization of funds got slowed down because of changes in accounts procedure and funds release procedures, delay in transfer of funds from treasury to SNA account and non-release of state share in time. The matter has been taken up at various levels including the Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries of States/UTs for release of State share; for ensuring SNA compliance and for expediting the utilization of available funds. Further, States are also being monitored on daily basis for timely release of central and state shares to SNA from treasury and immediate distribution of such funds to beneficiaries through child account. Secretary (DoF) reviewing with all the States where the pace of implementation and funds utilization is slow physically to understand the difficulties and to expedite the implementation of the scheme and to minimize the pendency of un-utilized funds.

Further, Department of Fisheries approved the State Annual Action Plan (AAP) so that states can utilize part of unspent balance for projects approved under AAP under PMMSY as well.

Further, such efforts taken by the Department of Fisheries helped in expediting the utilization of funds by the States and the unspent balance available with States has come down to Rs. 448.47 crore. The Department is continuing its efforts through periodic review meetings at different levels for speedy utilization of the central and state funds”.

C. ALLOCATIONS TO NORTH EASTERN STATES

2.23 Data on budget allocation and expenditure w.r.t. north eastern states since 2020-21 as furnished by the Department is as below:

(Rs. in crore)

State/UT	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE
NER States	56.00	82.00	81.99	106.00	122.00	122.00	188.50	146.45	101.54	200.66	150.5	201.66	235.97

D. TRIBAL SUB PLAN (TSP)

2.24 Data on fund allocation under Tribal Sub Plan in the flagship scheme PMMSY and expenditure incurred since 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Department submitted the following:

(Rs. in crore)

Tribal Sub Plan	Financial year	Total Budget Allocation	Funds Earmarked (BE) for TSP	% of total Budget Allocation	Funds Earmarked (RE) for TSP	% of total RE Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2020-21	560.00	53.00	9.46	63.00	9.00	62.38	0.62
	2021-22	1000.00	90.00	9.00	110.00	9.16	108.48	1.52
	2022-23	1879.00	171.50	9.12	127.78	9.06	103.19	24.59
	2023-24	2000.00	182.56	9.12	136.42	9.09	133.91	2.51
	2024-25	2352.00	214.69	9.13	188.50	12.56	173.68	--

2.25. On a query about surrender of funds under TSP during the financial years 2020-21 to 2023-24 and the reason for surrender if any, the Department submitted the following reply:

“There is no significant surrender of funds under the TSP head of PMMSY since 2020-21 except the FY 2022-23 due to non-receipt of TSP proposals from the States/UTs”.

2.26. The Department submitted the following data with regard to financial performance of TSP under the schemes PMMSY and FIDF respectively for the financial years 2020-21 up to 2024-25:

(Rs. In crore)

Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)	Year	PMMSY (RE)	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered	FIDF (RE)	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2020-21	700.00	53.00	63.00	62.38	0.62	10.00	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.00
	2021-22	1200.00	90.00	110.00	108.48	1.52	10.00	1.50	0.90	0.90	0.00
	2022-23	1410.00	171.50	127.78	103.19	24.59	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2023-24	1500.00	182.56	136.42	133.91	2.51	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2024-25	2352.00(BE)	214.69	188.50	173.68*	-	30.00 (BE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

*Expenditure as on 31.01.2025

2.27. On being asked about the State/UT wise details of allocations under TSP component for PMMSY and FIDF schemes being implemented by the Department for the financial years 2020-21 up to 2024-25, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Under the FIDF, the Department of Fisheries releases funds to NABARD to meet the inter subvention. Whereas under PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries releases the funds to the state Governments and UT under the appropriate head of accounts maintained in the budget including TSP. State/UT-wise details of funds approved under TSP component under PMMSY being implemented by the Department of Fisheries for the financial years 2020-21 up to 2024-25 are furnished below”

						Rs. In Lakh
S No.	Name of the State/UT	PMMSY				
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	A & N Islands	40.00	21.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	655.38	27.29	0.00	205.00	300.00
3	Arunachal Pradesh	230.24	0.00	2442.38	1237.50	1621.14
4	Assam	219.88	653.95	471.52	793.2935	750.00
5	Bihar	203.78	32.00	0.00	173.74	200.00
6	Chhattisgarh	623.02	727.35	1242.32	1865.41	1500.00
7	Daman & Diu	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Delhi	55.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Goa	8.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Gujarat	71.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	169.03	78.21	149.28	46.76	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir	344.85	149.08	38.62	18.88	28.90
14	Jharkhand	227.61	454.22	372.98	549.46	1000.00
15	Karnataka	251.51	1008.86	300.00	881.82	1000.00
16	Kerala	68.80	95.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Lakshadweep	325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Madhya Pradesh	417.03	1379.64	235.78	1139.02	2558.99
19	Maharashtra	200.00	0.00	300.00	714.62	0.00
20	Manipur	38.86	601.50	269.28	1000.00	700.00
21	Meghalaya	311.55	485.84	659.07	1172.00	1000.00
22	Mizoram	546.86	1329.81	694.93	717.76	1730.94
23	Nagaland	0.00	1340.22	1227.80	1665.63	1668.74
24	Odisha	244.35	396.05	200.00	69.89	300.00
25	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Rajasthan	12.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
28	Sikkim	152.55	223.43	522.52	0.00	150.00
29	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
30	Telangana	67.50	217.29	0.00	0.00	300.00
31	Tripura	0.00	864.66	455.95	455.95	300.00
32	Uttar Pradesh	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Uttarakhand	78.48	283.09	307.97	339.97	336.48
34	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	208.22	0.00	0.00
35	Ladakh	37.50	108.00	218.55	162.50	490.44
36	NFDB/misc	616.60	370.18	0.00	7.50	834.85
Total		6238.83	10848.37	10319.89	13391.35	17368.24

2.28 On being asked about the reasons for release of Nil funds for many States such as Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, UP, West Bengal and Union Territories of Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry Under the Tribal Sub Plan Component of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) during the FY 2024-25, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The States namely Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and UT of Puducherry do not have any Tribal beneficiaries. Consolidated central financial liabilities against the proposal approved has been released during 2020-21 to 2023-24 to remaining states under PMMSY. Hence, no funds have been released to these States/UTs under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana during 2024-25”.

2.29 when asked about the diversion of funds allocated under TSP to any other heads during the financial years 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Department gave the following reply:

“No funds allocated under TSP under PMMSY since 2020-21 has been diverted and spent under other heads”.

E. SCHEDULED CASTES SUB-PLAN (SCSP)

2.30 The data on fund allocation under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and expenditure incurred since 2020-21 as submitted by the Department is as under:

<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>								
Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)	Financial year	Total Budget Allocation (BE)	Funds Earmarked (BE) for SCSP	% of total Budget Allocation	Funds Earmarked (RE) for SCSP	% of total Budget Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2020-21	560.00	107.09	19.12	116.99	16.71	116.99	0.00
	2021-22	1000.00	167.00	16.70	200.40	16.7	179.65	20.35
	2022-23	1879.00	313.00	16.65	236.81	16.8	189.83	46.98
	2023-24	2000.00	336.16	16.80	251.95	16.79	185.8	66.15
	2024-25	2352.00	395.32	16.80	250.00	16.66	122.30	--

2.31 when asked about the reasons for surrender of funds under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) since 2021-22, the Department submitted the following reply:

“PMMSY is a demand driven scheme. The surrender of funds under the SCSP head of PMMSY since 2021-22 to 2023-24 was due to non-receipt of proposals from the States/UTs under SCSP”.

2.32 The data on BE, RE and actuals incurred by Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) under the schemes PMMSY and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) since 2020-21 as furnished by the Department is as follows :

Schedule d Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)	Year	PMMSY (BE)	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered	FID F	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2020-21	560.00	107.09	117.00	116.99	0.00	10.00	1.09	1.09	1.09	0.00
	2021-22	1000.00	167.00	200.40	179.65	20.75	10.00	2.8	1.7	1.7	0.00
	2022-23	1879.00	313.00	233.81	189.83	43.98	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2023-24	2000.00	336.16	210.40	185.17	24.60	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2024-25	2352.00	395.32	250.00	122.30*		30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

*Expenditure as on 31.01.2025

2.33 On being asked about the State/UT wise details of allocations under SCSP component for PMMSY and FIDF schemes being implemented by the Department for the financial years 2020-21 up to 2024-25, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Under the FIDF, the Department of Fisheries releases funds to NABARD to meet the inter subvention. Whereas under PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries releases the funds to the state Governments and UT under the appropriate head of accounts maintained in the budget including SCSP. State/UT-wise details of funds approved under SCSP component for PMMSY being implemented by the Department of Fisheries for the financial years 2020-21 up to 2024-25 are furnished below”

(Rs. in lakhs)						
PMMSY						
S. No.	Name of the State/UT	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	1223.10	5555.19	6000.00	2095.00	500.00
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Assam	513.40	591.21	442.31	2959.13	0.00
5	Bihar	426.73	88.00	0.00	643.49	500.00
6	Chhattisgarh	1126.50	238.39	284.67	439.29	1000.00
7	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Delhi	45.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Goa	17.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Gujarat	121.37	772.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Haryana	200.16	171.70	622.85	2289.50	400.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	325.89	155.87	250.70	125.33	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir	754.75	127.55	100.00	79.39	206.75
14	Jharkhand	236.19	323.68	159.00	929.47	500.00
15	Karnataka	2777.09	2147.29	500.00	832.82	1000.00
16	Kerala	132.80	338.50	1859.11	901.34	0.00
17	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Madhya Pradesh	268.76	452.14	154.49	778.54	1766.51
19	Maharashtra	400.00	1020.74	2284.40	2096.46	0.00
20	Manipur	63.43	157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

22	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Odisha	973.39	1716.94	1800.00	29.08	700.00
25	Puducherry	0.00	272.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Punjab	0.00	0.00	134.96	52.48	150.00
27	Rajasthan	14.28	11.35	0.00	0.00	100.00
28	Sikkim	0.81	0.00	0.00	33.96	984.85
29	Tamil Nadu	155.24	393.00	0.00	1252.00	500.00
30	Telangana	129.37	393.17	0.00	0.00	700.00
31	Tripura	122.35	451.78	201.74	1252.80	200.00
32	Uttar Pradesh	690.44	1483.67	273.72	432.38	2214.08
33	Uttarakhand	151.49	602.94	1233.62	295.20	393.62
34	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	1350.64	0.00	0.00
37	NFDB+CS	830.00	500.00	1000.00	1000.00	500.00
	Total	11699.98	17964.94	18652.21	18517.66	12230.00

2.34 On being asked about the measures taken by the Department to encourage States/UTs to submit proposals under Scheduled Castes Sup Plan (SCSP) component of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Department submitted the following reply:

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has highlighted matter with the States/UTs having sizeable Schedule Caste beneficiaries in all the review meetings and have been advised to ensure that minimum 16.6% of the Schedule Caste beneficiaries are included for financial assistance in PMMSY projects proposals while preparing the state annual action plan. Further, the measure taken up by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India in this regard include:

- I. Mandatory earmarking of minimum 16.6% of the budget allocated under Schedule Cast Sub-Plan(SCSP) for the benefits of scheduled caste beneficiaries and advising States/UTs to include SC/ST beneficiaries accordingly in the ie annual action plans. Specific mention of the Ministry of Finance instructions in the annual administrative approval of the Scheme that the fund earmarked Scheduled Caste beneficiaries are to be utilized exclusively for development of Schedule Castes.*
- II. Requesting the End Implementing Agencies i.e. Central Government entities including the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to include suitable interventions/activities for supporting SC population appropriately in their respective Annual Action Plan or Project Proposals. Similarly, State Governments/UTs are requested regularly to make specific allocation of funds for SCs in their Annual Action Plan/Self-contained proposals/DPRs based on the percentage of SC population in their jurisdiction.*

2.35 In written reply to a query whether any funds allocated to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) were diverted to other heads since 2020-21, the Department submitted the following:

“No funds allocated under SCSP under PMMSY since 2020-21 has been diverted and spent under other heads”.

CHAPTER – III

A) SCHEME WISE ANALYSIS

(i) PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY)

Scheme-wise details of Achievement of physical targets during last three years as furnished by the Department of Fisheries are as follows:

Sl. No.	Schemes	Name of the Component	Unit	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26
				Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target
1	PMMSY	Development of Freshwater Aquaculture	Ha.	3000	3363		4500	6293.94		50000	13194.24		10000	2097.45		10000
		Development of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Ha.	1000	1181		1300	52								
		Development of Waterlogged Areas	Ha.	140	0		200	176								
		Establishing fish feed mills/plants	No.	124	152		40	198								
		Installation of cages/pens in reservoir and other open water bodies	No.	7200	10990		2900	7357		4500	13938		500	1617		500
		Installation of Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)	No.	400	1323		1000	2231								
		Safety of Fishermen at Sea	No.	1500	126	Due to less proposals received from the States/UTs	1500	322	Due to less proposals received from the States/UTs	Components dropped			Components dropped			Components dropped
		Assistance to Traditional/Artisanal fishermen	No.	1500	1074		1500									
		Promotion of Mariculture	No.	15000	16469		79650	64000		15000	2851		5000	2125		5000
		New fishing harbours/fish landing centres	No. of Project	2	0		7	0		10	3		10	3		10
		Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen	No. in Lakhs	35	29.12	GAIS Component under PMMSY started grounding from 2 nd Year due to finalisation of Bid process.	35	33.21		35	34.54		36	36.28		36
		Saving-cum-Relief	No. in	6	1.25		6	6.4		6	6.0		6	5.75		6

Sl. No.	Schemes	Name of the Component	Unit	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26
				Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short -fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target
			Lakhs													
		Training and Capacity Building	No	45000	69818 No. sanctioned however, achieved 13 lakh through outreach programme		45000			70000	58 lakh (including outreach programme)		40000	48175		40000

3.2 On being asked about the reasons for (i) Under-achievement for the FY 2024-25 under the components Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, Development of Brackish water Aquaculture, and Development of Waterlogged areas, as against the target set at 10,000 ha only 2097.45 Ha has been achieved; and (ii) No targets been set for establishing fish feed mills/plants during the FY 2023-24 onwards up to 2025-25, the Department submitted the following reply to the above two points:

- (i) *The FY 2024-25 was the terminal year of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana implemented by the Department of Fisheries with a total outlay of Rs. 9407 crore. As 82% of the central funds was exhausted, the target has been significantly reduced for the terminal year of PMMSY. Further, Department of Fisheries has accorded approval of 30,326.45 ha of area brought under aquaculture under PMMSY against the target of 27000 ha under PMMSY for a period of 5 years.*
- (ii) *Establishing fish feed mills is one of the important component for amplifying fish production and an active activity under PMMSY. To strengthen 'outcomes' monitoring of central sector (CS) and centrally sponsored schemes (CSS), the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), an attached office of NITI Aayog, has developed output-outcome monitoring framework (OOMF). DMEO in consultation with the concerned Department developed key output and outcome indicators for all the schemes. The concerned Ministry/Department sets annual targets against each output and outcome indicators. The two schemes i.e. PMMSY and FIDF of Department of Fisheries are listed in the OOMF dashboard.*

Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog chaired a meeting on 9th November, 2022 suggested to reduce the number of output and outcome indicators focusing

the development of sector. Accordingly, the fish feed mills have been removed. Further, the PMMSY scheme is a demand driven scheme and the Annual Action Plans approved based on the proposals received from the States/UTs/implementing agencies. Under PMMSY 1091 number of feed mills has been approved to 30 States/UTs based on their proposals with the total outlay of Rs. 676.99 crore.

3.3. In response to a query about reasons for achieving a target of only 2125 as against the target set at 5000 under the component promotion of mariculture during the FY 2024-25, the Department gave the following reply:

The shortfall in mariculture targets under the PMMSY across coastal states and UTs for FY 2024-25, with an actual production of only 2,125 tons against a 5,000 ton target, is attributed due to the following factors:

- a. The enabling regulatory frameworks for mariculture has already been introduced under the Coastal Aquaculture (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the Coastal Aquaculture Rules, 2024 along with the necessary Guidelines for Hatcheries, Farms, Operation of NBCs and NBCs, etc. Guidelines for allowing Import of Seaweed have also been issued recently. Besides, Guidelines for Seaweed Cultivation, Marine Cage Culture, other Mariculture activities are prepared through Expert Committee and in consultation with the States.*
- b. However, expansion of mariculture and its commercial scale of production in the country requires marine spatial / zonation plans, supporting leasing policies and 'single window' clearances by the concerned coastal States/UTs for attracting investments and achieving desired growth. Entrepreneurs are facing challenges in area allotment and clearances from States / UTs in setting up of cage culture units, seaweed cultivation etc. restricting the establishment and scaling of mariculture units and seaweed cultivation.*
- c. Most coastal states and UTs lack essential mariculture pre-production facilities/infrastructure, such as hatcheries for quality seed production. This gap also restrictive in growth and scalability of mariculture. Additionally, limited number of high-quality species for seaweed cultivation, as well as cold chain facilities has restricted the expansion and scalability of mariculture.*
- d. Coastal regions experienced unpredictable weather patterns, such as cyclones and temperature fluctuations, which adversely impacted mariculture operations. States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha, are vulnerable to cyclones, faced significant setbacks as these conditions affected the health and survival rates of stock, particularly in open-sea cages and ponds.*

Addressing these gaps with targeted interventions will improve the mariculture production in the country.

3.4 The achievement under the component “New fishing harbours/fish landing centers during the financial years has been only 03 as against the target set at 10. On being asked about the reasons for the same, the Department gave the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during FY 2021-22 approved a total of 14 new fishing harbour/fish landing projects and 15 nos during 2022-23 to various State government/project implementation agencies under PMMSY. Hence, the Department of Fisheries achieved more than the targets set in terms of physical number of projects for both the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23. Under the PMMSY, a total of 35 fishing harbours and 22 fish landing centres proposals at a total cost of Rs. 2965.37 crore have been approved during 2021-25”.

3.5 When asked about the current status of anticipated outcomes of PMMSY such as increasing fish production, exports, reduction of Post Harvest Losses and employment generation, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The concerted efforts of the Governments, fishers, fish farmers and other fisheries stakeholders during the period of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has resulted in (i) increase of annual fish production in the country from 141.64 lakh tonne during 2019-20 to an all-time record of 184.02 lakh tonne in 2023-24, (ii) creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities to about 58 lakh persons in fishing and aquaculture related activities on account of the fisheries development projects, (iii) increase in fisheries export from Rs.46,663 crore in 2019-20 to Rs.60,525 crore in 2023-24, (iv) enhanced per capita fish consumption from 5-6 kg to 12-13 kg, (v) enhanced aquaculture productivity to 4.7 tonne per hectare, (vi) reduction of post-harvest losses to around 10-15% and (vii) increase in contribution of fisheries in National GVA from 0.98% (in 2019-20) to 1.32% (in 2023-24) (at constant prices), in Agriculture GVA from 6.52% in 2019-20 to 7.25% in 2023-24 (at constant prices)”.

3.6 On being asked about the total projects approved under PMMSY for Punjab State along with the number of projects proponents belonging to SC community, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India during the last 4(four) years (2020-21 to 2023-24) and current financial year(2024-25) of implementation of PMMSY has approved fisheries development projects of 35 State Governments in including Punjab, UTs and other implementing agencies amounting to Rs. 20990.79 crore with central share of Rs.8926.33 crore. The proposals of Government of Punjab amounting to Rs. 167.93 crore with central share of Rs. 45.15 crore including proposals amounting to Rs. 4.94 crore of SC beneficiaries have been approved under PMMSY during above said period”.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri -Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

3.7 When asked about the details of the funds allocated for PM-MKSSY since its launch and the funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred under the said scheme, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Being a sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, an amount of Rs. 72.00 crore has been earmarked for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana for the year 2024-25. An amount of Rs. 2.65 crore has been sanctioned under this sub-scheme as on 31.01.2025”.

3.8 On a query as to how many fishers have been registered till date under National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) which was launched under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana, the Department submitted the following reply:

“As on 17th February, 2025, a total of 18.00 lakh fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, fish vendors, Cooperatives, Village Level Organizations like Self Help Groups (SHGs), Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs), Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs)etc. has been registered under the National Fisheries Digital Platform of PMMKSSY”.

3.9 Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PMMKSSY), during the FY 2024-25, till 31st January, 2025, an amount of Rs. 2.65 crore has been sanctioned out of the total 72 crore earmarked for the scheme which is only 3.6%. when asked about the reasons for the same the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Union Cabinet on 8th February, 2024 has approved the PM-MKSSY as a sub-scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSSY), for a period of four years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 to be implemented in all the

States/UTs. PM-MKSSY is a Central Sector Component of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at an estimated outlay of Rs.6,000 crore with Rs.3,000 crore coming from the Government of India (Rs.1,125 crore from the World Bank loan, Rs.375 crore from the AFD loan and Rs.1500 crore as counterpart funding from the existing allocation of PMMSY Scheme) and the remaining Rs.3,000 crore is expected to come in form of investment from the beneficiaries/private sector. The Administrative Approval for the same has been issued on 7th March, 2024. Thereafter, the code of conduct for General Elections was in place due to which the agency for development of National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) could be on-boarded only in the mid-July, 2024. It may further be informed that the implementation of PM-MKSSY is totally online based. To enable implementation, a number of modules were developed along with the PM-MKSSY website and NFDP registration portal. It is to mention that the module development is quite a time taking process and we have developed seven modules for this purpose so far. Besides, a number of agencies need to be hired for the implementation of PM-MKSSY and only recently, we got the clearance from IFD for such agencies. In the view of above, this Department is hopeful that in the next financial year substantial funds under the PM-MKSSY may be spent showing increased expenditure”.]

3.10 On a query about the measures undertaken by the Department to reach those fishermen who do not have digital access such as Internet and Cell phones so as to enroll such fish farmers/fish workers/fish vendors in National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) and Mobile App created under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY), the Department submitted the following reply:

For the purpose of formalization of fisheries sector under the PM-MKSSY National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) and Mobile Apps have been developed with technical assistance from CSC SPV. NFDP has following aims and objectives:

- a. Formalization of the Indian fisheries and aquaculture sector through creation of a database of work-based digital identities for all fisheries' stakeholders through the dedicated portal as well as mobile app.*
- b. To serve as a 'one-stop' platform for information and availing benefits under PM-MKSSY such as performance-based incentives, aquaculture insurance, facilitate institutional credit, claim application for eligible financial incentives and provisions for strengthening of fisheries co-operatives and fisheries' traceability systems.*

c. NFDP will offer many features by way of modules such as access to credit, strengthening fisheries cooperatives, adoption of crop insurance, performance grant, training, capacity building and other extension services, and fisheries-related information.

The registration module was launched on 11th September, 2024 followed by development of other modules. Till date, more than 19.00 Lakh beneficiaries have registered on NFDP.

Under registration module of NFDP, there are three types of registrations being undertaken i. Individual registration ii. Organization registration iii. VLE (Village Level Entrepreneur) assisted registration. The individuals/ organizations may self-register or take assistance from CSC VLE for registration using their Aadhar credentials. The registrations will be done free of cost under all the modes. So far, 12 lakh individual/organizations registered on NFDP through CSC VLE assisted mode.

Besides, Department of Fisheries, GoI will provide Rs. 100 as documentation charges against each individual registration. In any case, the individual is taking assistance of CSC VLE will @ Rs.20 plus taxes (Rs. 23.60) and remaining Rs. 76. 40 to be credited to the beneficiary account after registration is approved.

However, the registrations will be verified and approved by the respective States/UT Fisheries Department and upon successful registration the said charges/ fee will be credited to beneficiaries account.

(iii) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

3.11 State wise Data on the proposals approved during the financial years 2021-22 to 2024-25 under FIDF as furnished by the Department is as follows:

(Rs. In crores)

Sl. No	Name of the State	No. of proposals approved	Total Project Cost
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	3.52
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.68
3	Assam	1	0.41
4	Himachal Pradesh	1	5.17
5	Jammu and Kashmir	1	47.12
6	Kerala	2	161.82
7	Karnataka	1	0.59
8	Maharashtra	7	941.60
9	Manipur	2	1.00
10	Odisha	4	60.18
11	Tamil Nadu	50	718.22
12	West Bengal	1	3.25
	Total	72	1943.54

3.12 From the FY 2021-22 up to 2024-25, 72 proposals received from various States have been approved under FIDF. On a specific query, whether the Department sets any target in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has approved a total 136 project proposals/projects at a total cost of Rs. 5801.06 crore with project cost restricted for interest subvention at Rs. 3858.19 crore to various States/UTs. Since the scheme is demand driven, no targets have been set under the FIDF”.

3.13 Data on projects approved under FIDF from 2021-22 to 2024-25 and their current status as furnished by the Department is stated below:

<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>							
Sl. No	Name of the State	No. of proposals approved	Total Project Cost	Funds raised by Nodal Loaning Entities	Funds contributed by beneficiaries	Budgetary Support by GOI	Current Status of the Project
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	87.03	11.00	2.18	0.84	1 project completed.
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.68	0	0	0	-
3	Assam	1	0.41	0	0	0	-
4	Himachal Pradesh	1	5.17	5.00	0.17	0.02	Under Progress
5	Jammu and Kashmir	1	47.12	25.00	22.12	0.59	Completed
6	Kerala	3	162.82	150.00	11.00	0.02	Under Progress
7	Karnataka	1	0.59	0	0	0	-
8	Maharashtra	11	1029.93	716.54	223.91	0.02	Under Progress
9	Manipur	2	1.00	0	0	0	-
10	Odisha	4	60.18	25.00	10.48	0.36	completed
11	Tamil Nadu	50	718.22	700.00	120.00	24	22 projects completed.
12	West Bengal	8	41.10	7.78	0.78	0.02	Under progress
13	Puducherry	1	2.46	0	0	0	-
	Total	87	2156.71	1640.32	390.64	25.87	

3.14 During the FY 2021-22 to 2024-25 under Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), 87 projects have been approved. However, only 28 projects have been completed out of the 87 approved projects. On being asked about the reason for the same, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, with effect from financial year 2018-19 is implementing Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total fund size of Rs 7522.48 crore. FIDF inter-alia provides concessional finance for development

of various fisheries infrastructure facilities to the Eligible Entities (EEs), including State Governments/Union Territories, State entities and other Stakeholders for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities. Under FIDF, the Department of Fisheries provides interest subvention up to 3% per annum for providing the concessional finance by the NLEs at the interest rate not lower than 5% per annum. Under FIDF scheme, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has approved a total 136 project proposals/projects at a total cost of Rs. 5801.06 crore with project cost restricted for interest subvention at Rs. 3858.19 crore to various States/UTs. Insofar, 44 projects have been physically completed and under operationalization. Since, the major projects are mainly on construction of Fishing Harbours/ fish landing centres and other large infrastructural projects taking long gestation period and to obtain approvals from multiple authorities, including environmental impact assessments, coastal regulation zone (CRZ) clearances, land Acquisitions, preparation of Techno-economical DPRs, work force issues etc. However, the Department of Fisheries is conducting the regular review meeting and advised the concerned implementing agencies for early implementation”.

3.15 FIDF was envisaged with a corpus of Rs 7522.48 crores which included funds raised by Nodal Loaning Entities, beneficiaries and budgetary support by GOI. When asked about the total funds that have been raised/disbursed under FIDF for various projects sanctioned till date, the Department submitted the following reply:

“In order to address the infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during 2018-19 has created dedicated fund namely Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total funds size of Rs 7522.48 crore. Further, the Union Cabinet approved extension of Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for another 3 years upto 2025-26. The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has approved a total 136 project proposals/projects at a total cost of Rs. 5801.06 crore with project cost restricted for interest subvention at Rs. 3858.19 crore to various States/UTs. Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs) have sanctioned the loan amount to Rs. 3294.41 crore for a total of 91 projects under FIDF. An amount of Rs. 990.56 Crores has been disbursed by NABARD to State Governments”.

B. FISHERY SURVEY OF INDIA

3.16 The data on targets and their achievement under 'Fishery Survey of India' since 2021-22 as furnished by the Dept is as under:

Sche me	Compo nent	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		202 5-26
Sche me	Compo nent	Targ et	achie veme nt	Shortfalls	target	achie veme nt	shortf all	target	achie veme nt	shortfall	target	achie veme nt	
Fish ery surv ey of India	No of fishing days by vessels	174 4	670	Breakdown repairs, delay in getting LSA/FFA clearance from Mercantile Marine Department (MMD)	1685	1639		1604	1204	Breakdown repairs, delay in getting LSA/FFA clearance from Mercantile Marine Department (MMD)	1685	78	

3.16 Under the component 'No of fishing days by vessels' there has been a consistent decrease in target achievement from the financial year 2021-22 up to 2023-24. Further, during the FY 2024-25 the achievement is very less i.e. only 78 as compared to the target set at 1685. The reason being 'Breakdown repairs, and delay in getting LSA/FFA clearance from Mercantile Marine Department (MMD). When asked about the measures taken by the Department to address this under achievement, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The department has taken the following measures to address the under-achievement in fishing days by vessels:

Pursuit of Approvals: *The matter has been taken up with DG Shipping (MMD) for Registration, Survey and Certification of our Departmental vessels and approvals are anticipated by March 2025.*

Vessel Decommissioning: *Four non-performing old vessels are proposed for decommissioning, reducing the fleet size to seven operational vessels. This adjustment aims to optimize out-at-sea days in line with targets.*

Proposed Acquisition: *Simultaneously the Department has also proposed for the acquisition of a new, larger vessel capable of surveying the entire EEZ of*

India and area beyond National jurisdiction i.e High Seas as per the present demand / requirement.”

3.18 On a query about the mechanism involved for getting LSA/FFA clearance from Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), the Department submitted the following reply:

“The mechanism for obtaining Registration, Survey and Certification clearance from the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) involves the Department of Fisheries engaging with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways to pursue policy decisions which are already in an advanced stage. This process aims to result in the Ministry of Shipping publishing a notification in the Official Gazette and based on the Gazette, DG shipping should direct the MMD that would enable the MMD to continue the Registration, Survey, and Certification of FSI Vessels”.

3.19 When asked about the time frame required for undertaking the Breakdown Repairs, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Breakdown repairs for the vessels mainly depends on the nature of break down and at times it takes long duration due to high lead time of import of spares through third party GEM suppliers after withdrawal of direct import of OEM spares by FSI. Further, as per the Merchant shipping Act, 1958, in every five years there must be two mandatory drydocking inspections of the bottom hull of the vessels and major structural (Afloat) repairs which otherwise are not possible in the operational validity period. However, FSI always assures to minimize the breakdown repairs period by engaging the departmental Engineers and workshop staffs”.

3.20 In the Union Budget 2025-26, Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that sustainable fishing in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and high seas will be promoted with special focus on Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. When asked about the measures being contemplated by the Department in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

The initiatives of Department of Fisheries w,r,t, the Budget Announcement is as below:

- The DoF, Gol on 04.02.2025 has constituted the inter-ministerial Committee to Draft Guidelines for Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India and High Seas.

- Two meetings of the said Committee have been held on 07th February, 2025 and 10th February, 2025 respectively.
- It is proposed to finalize the Draft Guidelines by in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments and also with the States/UTs, other stakeholders.
- The Guidelines will provide the operational aspects related to fishing operations in the Indian EEZ and High Seas and also establishing the institutional and monitoring framework for the implementation of the Guidelines by the Union and State Governments.
- Strategic Action Plan for Development of Fisheries in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands with indicative budgetary requirements is being prepared.

CHAPTER – IV

OTHR POLICY ISSUES

A. DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE RESILIENT COASTAL FISHING VILLAGES (CRCFV)

4.1 Department of fisheries is undertaking the development of 100 Coastal Fishermen Villages as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). On being asked (i) if there is provision for development of villages around rivers (other than coastal areas) which are inhabited by Traditional Fishermen communities; and (ii) What measures has the Department undertaken to ensure that the schemes intended for fishermen reach these traditional poor fishermen who reside alongside rivers, the Department submitted the following reply to the two points:

“Research under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project of the Indian Council Agricultural Research (ICAR) has portrayed significant impact of climate change on the marine fisheries. Shifts in species distribution, increased incidence of climate vagaries such as untimely and strong cyclones, sea surges etc are postulated with the severe impacts on the coastal villages and livelihood of fishermen. The project also suggested developing programmes for enhancing the resilience of the coastal villages particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Accordingly, the Department of Fisheries, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has identified 100 coastal fishermen villages situated close to the coastline as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) to enhance the economic resilience of communities impacted by climate change. The program promotes climate-resilient fisheries through initiatives such as seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, artificial reefs, sea ranching and promotion of green fuel for fishing etc. Safety and security measures for fishermen and fishing vessels. Special efforts are made in such villages for saturation of insurance programmes, livelihood and nutritional support, Kisan Credit Cards etc. besides training and capacity building. Focus is on providing need-based facilities, including common facilities like fish drying yards, fish processing centers, fish markets, fishing jetties, ice plants, cold storages and emergency rescue facilities etc. based on the gap analysis.

As such, development of fishermen villages along the rivers in the same line is not envisaged in the project now. However, suggestion of the Standing Committee is noted by the Department and setting up of scheme/component for development of fishermen villages along the river banks will be explored in consultation with the States/UTs”.

4.2 In a written reply to a query about the measures undertaken by the Department to develop the villages around the coast of Gujarat, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Based on the research findings under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project of the Indian Council Agricultural Research (ICAR) that there can be significant impact of climate change on the marine fisheries, the Department of Fisheries, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has identified 100 coastal fishermen villages situated close to the coastline as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) to enhance the economic resilience of communities impacted by climate change. The program promotes climate-resilient fisheries through initiatives such as seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, artificial reefs, sea ranching and promotion of green fuel for fishing etc. Safety and security measures for fishermen and fishing vessels. Special efforts are made in such villages for saturation of insurance programmes, livelihood and nutritional support, Kisan Credit Cards etc. besides training and capacity building. Focus is on providing need-based facilities, including common facilities like fish drying yards, fish processing centers, fish markets, fishing jetties, ice plants, cold storages and emergency rescue facilities etc. based on the gap analysis.

Among the 100 villages identified, eight villages namely Sachana, Navi bandar, Madhwad, Muldwarka, Bhatt, Jodia, Juna Bandar, Chorwad have been approved development as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages under the PMMSY scheme. Based on gap analysis carried out jointly with the State Government, facilities/infrastructure/livelihood support programmes such as Common Fish Markets, Common Fish Processing Unit, Artificial reefs, High mast light, Multipurpose Fisheries Centre, Ice Plants, Brackishwater aquaculture, Safety Kit, Fish auction hall, Seaweed cultivation, Matsya Seva Kendras, ghost net recycling units, toilet and drinking water facilities in the fish landing centers, etc. have been approved in these villages. Outlay approved for each village is Rs 200 Lakhs and the as such the total outlay for the State of Gujarat is Rs 1600 Lakhs. The Govt. of Gujarat has sought additional time for revision of the DPRs submitted and approval for the amount is being communicated by the NFDB, Hyderabad on receipt of final DPRs”.

4.3 In a written reply to the query about the progress in Vanakbara, Diu which has being identified as a site for Development of Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Village, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has designated 100 coastal fishermen villages near the coastline as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) to boost economic resilience against climate change. The program supports climate-resilient fisheries through seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, artificial reefs, sea ranching, and green fuel for fishing. It includes safety measures for fishermen and vessels, insurance programs, livelihood and nutritional support, and Kisan Credit Cards, along with training and capacity building. These villages receive essential facilities like fish drying yards, processing centers, markets, jetties, ice plants, cold storages, and emergency rescue services based on gap analyses.

Vanakbara village of U.T. of Daman, Diu and Nagar Haveli is one of the villages among the 100 villages identified for development as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages under the scheme. Detailed gap analysis was done to find out the need-based infrastructure and livelihood amenities for the village to enhance climate resilience. Net mending shed, Cyclone Shelter, High Mast Solar lights, Insulated Ice box, Solar Fish Drying Platform, Fish Kiosk, Safety of fishermen at Sea, Open Sea cage culture, Crab fattening and Seaweed cultivation are the activities or common facilities approved for the village with an outlay of Rs 200 lakhs. However, the U.T. of DDNH is yet to give the detailed project report to the NFDB as envisaged”.

B. FISHERMEN FEDERATIONS/COOPERATIVES

4.4 On being asked about the funding patterns for the local fishermen federation and their composition, particularly for the UT of Diu, the Department submitted the following reply:

Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), fisheries federations are eligible for financial assistance with following funding patterns.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):

- (i) *For the Non-beneficiary orientated activities, the Union Territories (with legislature and without legislature) will have 100% Central funding.*

- (ii) *For the Beneficiary orientated i.e. individual/group activities: the Government financial assistance of both Centre and State/UTs governments together will be limited to 40% of the project/unit cost for General category and 60% of the project/unit cost for SC/ST/Women. For UTs total subsidy amount 40% or 60% is borne by the Centre.*

4.5 On a specific query about the composition of Fishermen Federation in Diu and if these federations are composed of Government Officers or Local Fishermen Representatives, the Department submitted the following reply:

“As informed by UT basic structure of the fishermen federation usually comprises of Chairman (who is secretary fisheries of the UT), Board of Directors of 3 different fisheries cooperatives societies. In addition, collector Diu, one official from Department of Fisheries of the UT and individual fishermen also serve as board directors of the federation. Also, the Managing Director will be the Chief executive of the district panchayat”.

C. MATSYA SEVA KENDRA (MSK)

4.6 In a written reply to a query about the mandate of Matsya Seva Kendra (MSK) and the responsibilities entrusted to them and whether, creation of formal, small scale industry, in fisheries sector is also entrusted to MSKs, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Matsya Seva Kendras (MSKs) are integral components of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), established to enhance the fisheries sector in India. Their primary mandate includes: (i) One-Stop Solution Centers serve as centralized hubs, offering a range of services to fishers and fish farmers, including water, soil, and microbial analysis, disease testing, and capacity-building programs (ii) Extension and Support Services to disseminate modern aquaculture practices, technological advancements, and best practices in fisheries management”.

4.7 When asked about the details of Matsya Seva Kendra (MSK) that have been established in the country in general and Daman and Diu in particular under PMMSY and the measures taken by the Department to ensure that Matsya Seva Kendra (MSK) are established in each district where fishing is a major economic activity, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Under PMMSY, during 2020-21 to 2024-25, a total of 102 nos of Extension and support services (Matsya Seva Kendras) have been approved to various States/UTs. Projects under PMMSY are approved based on proposals submitted by the concerned States/UTs. This Department has not received any proposal for establishment of Matsya Seva Kendra (MSK) from DNH&DD Administration”.

D. DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE

4.8 With regard to the availability or otherwise of the quality seeds and fish feed in the country, the Department submitted the following:

“The Department of Fisheries, GoI has also taken several initiatives for quality seed production in freshwater, brackish water aquaculture and mariculture sectors. Under various schemes and programmes, financial assistance provided for establishment of Nucleus Breeding Centre (NBCs), Brood Banks, Broodstock Multiplication Centres (BMCs) & Hatcheries for quality seed production.

Indian Major Carps (IMC) is the backbone of Indian Aquaculture. This species is cultured in all the States of India except few pockets such as hilly regions having water temperature less than 12° C. Seed production technology for IMC is well developed, therefore, all the States have established IMC hatcheries.

At present, India is self-sufficient in IMC seed production. However, few States are still importing IMC seed from other States as in the case of Assam supplying IMC seeds to other NER States. At present 5331 crore seeds are produced in the freshwater aquaculture sector.

Shrimp farming is another major aquaculture activity, significantly contributing to the fisheries exports from India. At present there are nearly 400 Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) shrimp hatcheries and 113 Nauplii Rearing units exist in coastal states and producing 13000 crore seed (post larvae (PL) which fulfil requirements of farmers.

India possesses substantial installed capacity for both shrimp and fish feed production. Shrimp feed mills, with a capacity of 3.5 million tonnes, currently operate at a utilization rate of approximately 45.71%, producing 1.6 million tonnes annually. Fish feed mills, on the other hand, have an installed capacity of 4 million tonnes but produce only 1.4 lakh tonnes per year, resulting in a low utilization rate of around 35%. Despite the underutilization of fish feed mills, India's overall feed production capacity is sufficient to meet the demands of its shrimp and fish farming industries.

To further enhance the quality and standards of fish feed, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has developed voluntary standards for various fish species, including catfish (Magur & Shighi), pangasius, tilapia, marine carnivorous fish,

marine shrimp, freshwater prawn, and carp. The Department of Fisheries is actively engaging with industry stakeholders and State/UT governments to promote the adoption of these standards to ensure that fish farmers get quality feed for healthier and enhanced fish production and ultimately higher incomes. Under PMMSY Department of Fisheries accorded approval of 1091 number feed mills at a total outlay of Rs. 794.44 crore with central share of Rs. 267.47 crore having production potential of 13610 tons of feed per day”.

E. WELFARE OF TRADITIONAL FISHING COMMUNITIES

4.9 In a written reply to a query about specific schemes for the traditional fishing communities such as Machhuwa, Kewat, Lodhi, Mallah, Dhimar, Kashyap, Raikwar, Manjhi, Godia (kahar) and Nishad of the state of Uttar Pradesh and if the Department has identified the fishing communities all over the country so as to provide them targeted benefits, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department is implementing a flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at a total outlay of Rs. 20,050 Crores for holistic development of fisheries and welfare of Fishermen in the country including Uttar Pradesh. As regards to specific schemes for the traditional fishing communities such as Machhuwa, Kewat, Lodhi, Mallah, Dhimar, Kashyap, Raikwar, Manjhi, Godia (kahar) and Nishad of the state of Uttar Pradesh, the State Department of Fisheries, Government of Uttar Pradesh under the State Plan scheme is implementing Nishadraj Boat Subsidy Yojana and Uttar Pradesh Matsya Palak Kalyan Kosh. Further, respective states have identified the fishing communities so as to provide the targeted benefits to fishing communities under the existing scheme”.

4.10 When asked about the number of traditional fishermen (not entrepreneurs) who have been benefitted in the state of Uttar Pradesh in the last five years under PMMSY and FIDF, the Department submitted the following reply:

“As reported by State Department of Fisheries, Government of Uttar Pradesh a total of 3358 fishermen have been provided benefits under the ongoing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Government of Uttar Pradesh have availed NIL under FIDF.”

4.11 On being asked about the measures taken by the Department for dissemination and publicity of its schemes to local fishermen communities, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Department of Fisheries in coordination with NFDB has organized various outreach activities to popularize PMMSY scheme and Domestic fish consumption through various digital platforms such as short news apps/google/face book etc, campaign in railway stations, airports, audio-video publicity in the form of Jingles/video films and printing /publicity (Magazines and Newspapers), installing Hoardings etc. The said outreach campaigns are taken up to create awareness in rural and urban people through print, audio-visual, outdoor, digital and electronic media through Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) which is the nodal agency to undertake multi-media advertising and publicity for various Ministries and Departments of Government of India as well as by identifying local agencies as per the requirement and few outreach activities are implemented through States/UTs and some outreach activities are implemented directly by NFDB in coordination with Department of Fisheries. Various outreach activities such as outdoor campaigns, Digital Campaigns, mass media campaigns, Publicity through electronic media announcement in railways, digital display in airports and creation of jingles and broadcasted in States & UTs on schemes such as PMMSY, KCC & FIDF in vernacular language, film on 10 years achievements , success stories and to encourage on priority activities National level workshops on Seaweed, ornamental fisheries, create awareness on insurance scheme benefits, PMMSY workshops, Anniversary program, door to door campaign on KCC seeking grievances, reaching to the coastal fishermen communities through program such as Sagar Parikrama, Matsya Sampada Jagruthi Abhiyan programs organized at local grassroots level were organized by Department of Fisheries,Gol along with NFDB. Presently regular outreach programs are organized on PMMSKY, National digital Platform, Cluster approach, climate resilience and Demonstration on drone technology & its usefulness have been conducted across the country for popularization of modern technologies.NFDB has supported the organization of awareness/training programmes by 104 no. of Institutes/States/UTs/Fishery Universities/Colleges/AOCs/ AAHLs/ KVKs including 3028 no. of webinars/ training programmes with an outlay of Rs. 19. 35 crore for the benefit of 2,92,315 of participants under PMMSY during last 4 years and current financial year”.

4.12 When asked about the measures taken by the Department to ensure that the interests of poor and small fishermen are protected and big fishing industries/mafia do not forcefully harvest all the sea resources, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Welfare and development of the traditional fishers are at core of schemes and programmes of the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. Under the PMMSY, support is provided to the fishers for acquiring new fishing boats and nets to enhance their fishing capacities, Livelihood and Nutritional Support in the form of assistance during the annual fishing ban period to mitigate their economic hardships, support undertaking sea cage farming, seaweed cultivation, ornamental fish farming, pearl farming etc for diversification to climate resilient livelihood in the coastal areas and for earning additional income, deployment of Artificial Reefs in the coastal areas for replenishment of fisheries resources in the traditional fishing grounds and restoration of coastal ecosystems, support for upgrading their present fishing vessels to modern deep-sea fishing vessels for earning a significantly increase annual profits, Alternative Livelihoods: Promotion of mariculture, cage culture, and seaweed cultivation to provide sustainable livelihoods, accidental insurance cover for protection of fishers against injury and loss of life, Training and Capacity Building programs to enhance skills and knowledge in modern fishing practices and technologies. All these initiatives aim to improve the socio-economic conditions of traditional fishers and ensure sustainable fishing practices. Further, the state Marine Fisheries Regulation Acts (MFRA) often recognize and protect the traditional fishing rights of local communities and demarcated specific areas where traditional fishing practices are prioritized”.

F. LIFE INSURANCE COVER FOR FISHERMEN

4.13 On a specific query about the insurance schemes available for fishermen in the country and if fishermen are eligible for life cover in the insurance schemes that are being implemented by Government of India, the Department submitted the following reply:

The insurance schemes are available for fishermen in the country are as below:

(a) Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS): *The scheme for providing life cover for fishermen through Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) under PMMSY is being implemented since 26.07.2021 by Department of Fisheries through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). In the case of General States, the premium amount is shared on a 60:40 basis and for the Himalayan & North eastern states the sharing is 90:10 between the Centre and State Governments respectively without beneficiary contribution. In the case of the Union territories, the entire premium amount is paid by the Centre. There is no beneficiary contribution.*

Insurance Coverage:

- i. Rs.5.00lakhs is provided against accidental death or permanent total disability.
- ii. Rs.2.50 lakh against accidental permanent partial disability and Rs.25,000 against accidental hospitalization

Besides, under the PMMSY, for the purpose of insurance, 'fishers' will also mean to include fish workers, fish farmers and any other categories of persons directly involved in fishing and fisheries related allied activities.

(b) Insurance for Fishing Boats: The Government of India has launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) from 2020-21. Insurance of fishers is one of the sub-components of PMMSY scheme, under beneficiary oriented centrally sponsored scheme. The objective is to provide premium subventions to the stakeholder (fishing vessel owner) for their fishing vessel to ensure financial and livelihood security due to foreseen and unforeseen event/s. The scheme also ensures compliance with fishing law, rules and regulations by the fishermen and guards against any third-party liability.

NFDB is designated as the nodal agency for implementing the "Insurance premium subvention for fishing vessels Scheme" under PMMSY by Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Accordingly, the scheme has been initiated and tendering undertaken to identify the Implementing Insurance Company and Intermediary for undertaking Fishing Vessels' Insurance for all the Coastal States/ UTs.

Every vessel that is proposed for insurance shall be registered under M. S. Act (Real Craft)/ State MFRA (State/ UT Marine Fishing Regulation Act and have valid Fishing license. Deep Sea Fishing Vessels, Motorized Mechanical Fishing Vessels, Motorized Non-Mechanical Fishing Vessels are eligible for the cited insurance coverage.

Funding pattern: The pattern of assistance envisaged is up to 40% for General category and 60% for SC/ST/Women towards the total premium amount.

The sharing pattern between the State and Centre are as below:

- i. North Eastern & Himalayan States: 90% Central share and 10% State share.
- ii. Other States: 60% Central share and 40% State share.
- iii. Union Territories (with legislature and without legislature): 100% Central share.

(c) Aquaculture Insurance: A component for creating aquaculture insurance products and their adoption by aquaculture farmers is introduced in the PM-MKSSY. Market Aquacrop Insurance Products have been made available and listed in the National Fisheries Digital Platform, where farmers can buy Insurance online and claim One Time Incentive directly. The Scheme aims to insure One lakh hectares of aquaculture area.

▪ **Insurance products are designed and marketed by Insurance Companies**

▪ **Basic insurance:** Covers yield losses due to non-preventable risks like summer kill, pollution poisoning, malicious acts, earthquake, riots, cyclone, floods, and other natural calamities

PM-MKSSY offers provisions to facilitate the adoption of insurance for coverage of aquaculture farms across the country by incentivizing crop insurance and boosting its off-take. Farmers engaged in newer forms of aquaculture such as cage culture, RAS, bio-floc, raceways and other types of aquaculture practices like mariculture and coldwater fisheries will be encouraged to purchase insurance products.

A 'one-time incentive' will be provided as follows:

- To the willing farmers with farm size of 4 hectares of Water Spread Area (WSA) and less.
- Against purchase of aquaculture insurance at the rate of 40% of the cost of premium subject to a limit of ₹ 25,000 per hectare of WSA of the aquaculture farm. Maximum incentive payable to single farmer will be ₹ 1,00,000 and maximum farm size eligible for incentive is 4 hectares of WSA.
- If the farm size is less than 1 hectare WSA, the admissible incentive shall be paid on pro-rata basis.
- For aquaculture systems other than farms such as cage culture, RAS, bio-flocs, raceways, etc. the incentive payable is 40% of premium. Maximum incentive payable is ₹ 1,00,000 and the maximum unit size eligible will be of 1800 m³.
- The aforesaid benefit of 'one-time incentive' will be provided for aquaculture insurance purchased for one crop cycle only.
- SC, ST and Women beneficiaries shall be provided an additional incentive @10% of the incentive payable for General Categories. To illustrate, for an aquaculture farm size of 1 hectare WSA, the limit of one-time incentive will be ₹ 27,500 in place of ₹ 25,000 and for farm size of 4 hectares WSA, the one-time incentive will stand at ₹ 1,10,000 in place of ₹ 1,00,000.

- *In all the above cases, the 'one-time incentive' amount will be paid in 'one go' (not in tranches) directly to the beneficiary through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and not to the insurance company.*

Policyholders who purchased Fish/ Shrimp/ Brackish Water Prawn Insurance or such other Aquaculture Insurance Products on or after 01.04.2023 are eligible for the benefits of the scheme and to encourage the existing buyers of ACI products towards availing the One-time incentive through the NFDP.

4.14 On a query if the Department envisages any mechanism so as to provide 100 percent insurance for boats and life cover to fishermen, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The scheme for providing life cover for fishermen through Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) under PMMSY is being implemented since 26.07.2021 by Department of Fisheries through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

In the case of General States, the premium amount is shared on a 60:40 basis and for the Himalayan & North eastern states the sharing is 90:10 between the Centre and State Governments respectively without beneficiary contribution. In the case of the Union territories, the entire premium amount is paid by the Centre. There is no beneficiary contribution.

Insurance Coverage:

- Rs.5.00 lakhs is provided against accidental death or permanent total disability.*
- Rs.2.50 lakh against accidental permanent partial disability and Rs.25,000 against accidental hospitalization*

Besides, under the PMMSY, for the purpose of insurance, 'fishers' will also mean to include fish workers, fish farmers and any other categories of persons directly involved in fishing and fisheries related allied activities.

Insurance for Fishing Boats:

Insurance of fishers/fish farmers is one of the sub-components under beneficiary oriented centrally sponsored scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. The objective is to provide premium subventions to the stakeholder (fishing vessel owner) for their fishing vessel to ensure financial and livelihood security due to foreseen and unforeseen event/s. The scheme also ensures compliance with fishing law, rules and regulations by the fishermen and guards

against any third-party liability.

NFDB is designated as the nodal agency for implementing the “Insurance premium subvention for fishing vessels Scheme” under PMMSY by Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Accordingly, the scheme has been initiated and tendering undertaken to identify the Implementing Insurance Company and Intermediary for undertaking Fishing Vessels’ Insurance for all the Coastal States/ UTs.

Every vessel that is proposed for insurance shall be registered under M. S. Act (Real Craft)/ State MFRA (State/ UT Marine Fishing Regulation Act and have valid Fishing license. Deep Sea Fishing Vessels, Motorized Mechanical Fishing Vessels, Motorized Non-Mechanical Fishing Vessels are eligible for the cited insurance coverage”.

G. DEVELOPMENT OF SEA WEED

4.15 When asked about the measures undertaken by the Department for promotion of Seaweeds cultivation in the country and Diu in particular, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Promotion of seaweed cultivation is one of the priority activity under PMMSY. Under the PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries, GoI has approved seaweed projects worth ₹194.09 crore, with a central share of ₹98.97 crore including support provided to beneficiaries for installation of 47,245 Rafts, 65,480 monolines/ tube nets, establishment of a Multipurpose Seaweed Park, Seaweed Seedbank, Pre-feasibility Assessment study projects on seaweed farming, training and capacity building programs in various States and Union Territories. The Multipurpose Seaweed Park is being established in Tamil Nadu at a total cost of ₹ 127.71 crore with Central financial assistance of ₹ 75.16 crore under the PMMSY. Besides, a Seaweed Seedbank has been sanctioned for Daman & Diu with a project cost of ₹ 120 lakh. In addition, 6 projects at a total cost of ₹ 465.07 lakhs have been approved for various ICAR and CSIR institutes, wherein 100% financial support is provided by DoF, GoI. The Department has undertaken multiple training and capacity-building initiatives for seaweed cultivation such as, in June 2023, 250 villagers in Gujarat received hands-on training, while in September 2023, ₹216 lakh were allocated for training 1,182 locals in Kori Creek. A National Conference on Seaweed was held in January 2024. The ICAR-CMFRI trained master trainers in Tamil Nadu, and CSIR-CSMCRI trained 2,529 stakeholders between 2017-2025. Additionally, 102 programs trained 7,490 beneficiaries from 2022-2024. Training

initiatives also covered Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar, and Tamil Nadu, with international exposure through "Seaweed India 2022" in Chennai".

H. SAND MINING IN DEEP SEA

4.16 When asked specifically about Kollam Island in Kerala being identified for deep sea mining of thorium by the Ministry of Mining, Government of India and whether it will affect the fishermen in the area and also make fishing difficult, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 [hereafter referred as the Maritime Zones Act, 1976] defines the limits in relation to the territorial waters, the continental shelf, the exclusive economic zone or any other maritime zone of India. The sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1976 mandates obtaining a license or a letter of authority granted by the Central Government to explore or exploit any resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). However, fishing by Indian fishermen in EEZ area is exempted under sub section 5 of Maritime Zones Act, 1976.

Offshore mining is dealt by the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India and regulated under the Offshore Area Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (OAMDR, Act) as amended in 2023. The Ministry of Mines had sought comments from the Department at the time of notification of 3 offshore Mineral Blocks off Kollam District, Kerala for grant of operating rights prior to notification under section 10 of the OAMDR Act 2002. The Ministry of Mines was apprised that although the identified Mineral Blocks falls outside the territorial waters off Kerala, the notification be made subject to conditions that the sustainability of fisheries resources is ensured in the environmental management plan and livelihood issues of the fishermen are adequately addressed".

PART –II

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Underutilization of Allocated Funds and Increasing Shortfall.

The Committee in their 3rd Report (DFG 2024-25) at recommendation no. 1 have observed that the revised procedure for release of central funds to States/UTs was introduced by the Department of Expenditure, MoF w.e.f 31st July, 2021, and even after three years of its introduction, the desired results as envisaged by the Department, have not been achieved. The Committee, therefore, recommended that, the Department should make serious efforts and proactively liaise with its counterparts in the States/UTs and State Fisheries Departments to address this issue for positive results.

Now, the Committee have been informed that to bring more efficiency in cash management at both Centre and States levels, an alternative fund flow mechanism for releasing central funds has been introduced on “Just-in-Time” basis under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) namely SNA-SPARSH from 1st June, 2024, wherein, 28 schemes including Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) have been on boarded. Under the new system, 26 States have been on boarded, however, the pace of fund flow has been slow due to lack of understanding by the states to adhere to the compliances/guidelines of SNA-SPARSH, delay in contributing matching share by the State Governments and non-receipt of physical and financial progress (utilization certificates) on time from States/UTs and other stakeholders.

The Committee are concerned that, the Department is unable to completely utilise the allocated budget and the shortfall of the Department has been increasing continuously. This underutilization of funds is also affecting the implementation and outcomes of the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and expenditure under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan (STSP) which in turn is affecting the goals of uplifting the socio-economic conditions and general well being of the poor and traditional fishermen of the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department may explore the possibility of devising an incentive scheme for State/UT governments, particularly to those States/UTs who promptly comply with the SNA-SPARSH guidelines, release their state matching share in time along with Utilisation Certificates and whose performance in implementing the schemes of the Department and spending under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan (STSP) is substantial. The Committee, would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department and progress achieved in this regard.

2. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

The Committee understands that most of the traditional fishers/fish farmers/fish vendors of the country belong to the underprivileged strata who do not have proper education/training or resources and hence are not aware about the programmes and schemes implemented by the Government intended for their socio-economic development.

The Committee have been informed that under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is the

nodal agency for implementing the sub-component of central sector i.e. “Training, Awareness, Exposure & Capacity Programme” and thereby provide the necessary training to fishermen of the country. NFDB is also responsible to enhance domestic fish consumption which is an important source of cheap protein and create awareness about the health & nutrition benefits of fish consumption. The Committee note that from the FY 2021-22 up to FY 2023-24, NFDB has utilized 100 % of allocated funds, however, during the FY 24-25, the funds allocated to NFDB have been reduced by 23 % over the previous FY 23-24.

Acknowledging the important role played by NFDB in imparting education and training to the fishers/fish farmers, and raising awareness with regard to various schemes and programmes of the Department meant for their overall development, the Committee, recommend, that the Department may examine and consider revising the budget allocation for National Fisheries Development Board keeping in view its mandate i.e. imparting training, awareness and capacity building of fishers of the country.

3. Assistance to Fishery Institutes

The Committee note that the RE allocation for Assistance to Fishery Institutes during the FY 2024-25 has been reduced by almost 30%. Further, the Department has not been able to utilize completely the funds allocated during the financial years 2021-22 up to 2024-25. The Committee has been informed that, out of the total funds allocated to Assistance to Fisheries Institutes, more than 76% of the funds are earmarked to two institutes namely Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET) and in addition to the regular establishment expenditure, the expenditure of FSI,

CIFNET is the operation and maintenance of its 14 fishery survey and training vessels. However, during the 2024-25 financial year only one-two vessels were in operation.

The Committee note that Fishery Survey of India is responsible for survey and assessment of marine fishery resources of the Indian EEZ, monitoring the fishery resources, maintaining data bank and dissemination of information on fishery resources to fishing community and also imparting in-vessel training to CIFNET trainees.

In the Union Budget 2025-26, Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that sustainable fishing in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and high seas will be promoted with special focus on Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. In view of the above statement and keeping in view the importance of Fishery Survey of India in surveying the EEZ and high seas, the Committee recommend that the Department take proactive measures and ensure that the funds allocated under Assistance to fishery Institutes are utilized in full and all survey vessels of FSI are repaired along with the necessary clearances, registrations and certifications from DG Shipping. The Committee would like to be apprised of the measures taken by the Department in this regard.

4. Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)

The Committee in their 3rd Report (DFG 2024-25) at recommendation no 5, expressed serious concern at the declining trend of utilisation of funds under SCSP and recommended the Department to analyze the reasons for non-receipt of the proposals from the state Governments and initiate suitable action including

review of features, terms & conditions, eligibility criteria, etc and ensure the receipt of proposals from the state/ UT Governments for optimal utilization of the funds under SCSP.

The Committee has been informed that the Government of India has highlighted the matter with the States/UTs having sizeable Schedule Caste beneficiaries in all the review meetings and they have been advised to ensure Mandatory earmarking of minimum 16.6% of the budget of PMSSY for the benefits of scheduled caste beneficiaries. Further, States/UTs are advised to include SC/ST beneficiaries accordingly in their annual action plans and End Implementing Agencies i.e. Central Government entities including the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to include suitable interventions/activities for supporting SC population appropriately in their respective Annual Action Plan or Project Proposals.

The Committee, appreciates the efforts taken by the Department to ensure and encourage States/UTs to submit proposals under SCSP component of PMMSY, however, the Committee, observe that the actual expenditure of funds under SCSP component of PMMSY from the financial years 2022-23 to 2024-25 have been continuously decreasing. The Committee infers that decreasing actual expenditure of funds allocated for SCSP would mean that the efforts taken by the Department are not materializing in increasing actual expenditure under SCSP. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department continue with their efforts so as to ensure maximum participation of Scheduled Castes population in the schemes implemented by the Department and reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Department may devise a mechanism to incentivize

/encourage States/UTs to send proposals under the SCSP so that the intended benefits of the scheme come to fruition.

5. National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)-PMMKSSY

The Committee have been informed that National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) aims at formalization of fisheries sector through creation of a database of work based digital identities for all fisheries stakeholders through dedicated portal as well as mobile app. NFDP would serve as a 'one-stop' platform for information and availing benefits under Pradhan Mantri Matya Kisan Samrighi Sah Yojana such as performance-based incentives, aquaculture insurance, facilitate institutional credit, claim application for eligible financial incentives and provisions for strengthening of fisheries co-operatives and fisheries' traceability systems.

The Committee, observe that most of the fishermen and fish farmers of the country do not have digital access and mobile phones and therefore are concerned as to how these fishers would be enrolled in NFDP. However, the committee has been informed that under registration module of NFDP, there are three types of registrations being undertaken i.e. Individual registration ii. Organization registration; and iii. VLE (Village Level Entrepreneur) assisted registration. The individuals/ organizations can self-register or take assistance from CSC VLE for registration using their Aadhar credentials free of cost.

The Committee appreciates the provision of Village Level Entrepreneur assisted registration (CSC VLE) in NFDP, however, at the same time recommends that the Department should also engage gram panchayats at district level and

gram sabhas at taluka level in this regard. Further, the Department should also develop a mechanism to monitor the progress of fishers registered under CSC VLE and ensure that enough publicity is accorded for NFDP so that more and more fishers are encouraged to register and take advantage of the intended benefits in NFDP.

6. Development of Climate Resilient Fishermen Villages around Rivers

The Committee has been informed that the Department of Fisheries, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has identified 100 coastal fishermen villages situated close to the coastline as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) to enhance the economic resilience of communities impacted by climate change along with development of climate-resilient fisheries through initiatives such as seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, artificial reefs, sea ranching and promotion of green fuel for fishing etc. Further, safety and security measures for fishermen and fishing vessels, insurance programmes, livelihood and nutritional support, Kisan Credit Cards, training and capacity building are also focused upon. Provision of need-based facilities, including common facilities like fish drying yards, fish processing centers, fish markets, fishing jetties, ice plants, cold storages and emergency rescue facilities are also incorporated.

The Committee note that the country has a vast potential in Inland fisheries comprising of 0.28 million km of rivers and canals, 1.2 million ha flood plain lakes, 2.45 million ha of ponds and tanks and 3.15 million ha of reservoirs, which contributes around 13.9 MMT to total fish production. Most of the traditional fishing communities who lack socio-economic stability reside around these vast

rivers and lakes. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should devise a scheme for these traditional fishermen communities who reside alongside rivers and explore the possibility of development of their villages into climate resilient fishermen villages in consultation with States/UTs. The committee would like to be apprised of the measures taken by the Department in this regard.

7. Development of Seaweed Cultivation in India

The Committee understands that Seaweeds are valued commercially for their cell wall polysaccharides such as agar, algin, carrageenan etc. and for the bioactive metabolites, manure and fodder and also have a variety of commercial applications in food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, mining industry. Further, edible seaweeds (macroalgae) also have the potential to provide a rich and sustainable source of macronutrients and micronutrients to the human diet. Seaweed resources grow best in the tidal and inter-tidal waters along our peninsular coastline and the Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep Archipelagos. India is bestowed with more than 0.26 million tonnes wet harvestable biomass of seaweeds belonging to 700 species. Seaweed farming is a low-cost simple technology, which is one of the effective livelihood option for the marine fishers.

The Committee has been informed that guidelines for allowing Import of live Seaweed have been issued recently which would enable domestic multiplication and ensure that farmers have access to quality seed stock which would bolster the development of seaweed enterprises in coastal states and Islands.

Promotion of seaweed cultivation is one of the priority under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the country has enormous potential in seaweed cultivation which would improve the socioeconomic status of coastal/marine fishermen/farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department may take proactive steps to promote seaweed cultivation in all the coastal states/Islands by providing financial, marketing and logistical support and ensure economic gains to the marginal marine fishermen population along with protecting the marine ecosystems.

8. Enhancing the corpus of Accidental Life Insurance for Fishermen

The Committee has been informed that the Department implements The Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) since 26th July, 2021, which provides life cover of Rs 5lac, 2.5lac and Rs. 25000 for fishermen against accidental death, accidental permanent/partial disability and accidental hospitalization respectively. Further the premium amount is shared between the centre and state in the ratio of 60:40 for general states, 90:10 for Himalayan and north eastern states and 100% by centre in case of Union Territories.

The Committee are aware that most of the traditional fishermen/fishers belong to the socioeconomically disadvantaged strata lacking in financial stability and economic resources. Further, traditional fishers who venture into the sea for fishing activities are exposed to higher risks as fishing is one of the most dangerous occupations leading to many injuries and deaths annually due to

harsh weather conditions and equipment failure. Any mishappening at sea leading to the loss of primary bread earner subjects the families of fishermen to severe challenges to sustain their livelihood needs, and jeopardizes the future well being of their families. Given the rising living costs and inflation, the current insurance cover would be insufficient to cover the basic survival needs, children education and debt repayments of fishermen who lose their lives.

The Committee, therefore recommend that the accidental Insurance cover under GAIS should be enhanced from Rs. 5 lac to at least Rs. 10 lac so that the families of the deceased fishermen are able to sustain their life with dignity and the financial security of their families is been taken care of. The Committee also observe that most of the times the fishermen families who claim the insurance cover are subjected to enormous paperwork and lengthy bureaucratic procedures and therefore, recommend that the procedure for claiming insurance should be simplified and measures should be taken to ensure that the insurance amount is disbursed to the claimants promptly with least paperwork.

9. Matsya Seva Kendra (MSK)

The Committee has been informed that Matsya Seva Kendra (MSKs) are integral components of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) established to enhance the fisheries sector in India. They function as a One-Stop Solution Centers offering a range of services to fishers and fish farmers, including water, soil, and microbial analysis, disease testing, and capacity-building programs along with Extension and Support Services to disseminate modern aquaculture practices, technological advancements, and best practices

available in fisheries management. Further, establishment of Matsya Seva Kendra (MSK) under PMMSY are based on proposals submitted by the concerned States/UTs.

The Committee understand that MSK can play an important role in the overall development of the fisheries sector by increasing awareness amongst fishermen about the modern aquaculture practices, technological interventions and also strengthening capacity building. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department should take effective measures and ensure that Matsya Seva Kendra are established in every district of the country which has a sizeable population engaged in fisheries for their livelihood and economic wellbeing. The Department should actively pursue with States/UTs and incentivize them for establishing Matsya Seva Kendra on priority basis.

10. Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

The Committee in their 3rd Report on DFG (2024-25) have recommended that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana may be continued as PMMSY Phase-II for a period of another five years *i.e.* from FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30 to focus on the strengthening of value addition infrastructure to enhance seafood exports, island fisheries development (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands) and infusion and adoption of cutting edge technologies to further modernise fisheries sector.

The Committee has been informed that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana has been extended for another one year *i.e.* upto 2025-26, Co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission year cycle, with no budgetary support.

However, no decision has been taken on the extension of PMMSY for another five years (2026-27 to FY2030-31). Given the importance of PMMSY in bringing about change in the socioeconomic conditions of the fishers of the country by focusing on sustainable and responsible development and boosting fishery sector's contribution to the national economy and food security, the Committee, reiterate their recommendation that tenure of PMMSY should be extended for another five years i.e. up to 2030-31.

New Delhi
18 March, 2025
27 Phalgun, 1946 (saka)

Charanjit Singh Channi
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)**

The Committee sat on Friday, the 28th February, 2025 from 1417 hrs. up to 1611 hrs. in Committee Room '2', Block-A, First Floor, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
4. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
5. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
6. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
7. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
8. Shri Dharambir Singh
9. Shri Sudhakar Singh
10. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

RAJYA SABHA

11. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
12. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
13. Shri Madan Rathore
14. Shri Ramji Lal Suman

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Shri Srinivasulu Gunda | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Khakhai Zou | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Ashwaghosh Bhaurao Lokhande | - | Under Secretary |

LIST OF WITNESSES

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES)

S. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi	- Secretary (Fisheries)
2.	Shri Sagar Mehra	- Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries)
3.	Ms. Neetu Kumari Prasad	- Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries)
4.	Dr. Bijay Kumar Behera	- Chief Executive, NFDB

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting convened for taking oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) in connection with examination of Demand No. 43 of the Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to the Department of Fisheries. After welcoming the representatives of the Department, the Chairperson apprised them of the confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. After introduction by the witnesses, a power-point presentation was made by the Secretary and the Committee were briefed about the Schemes and Programmes of the Department and also about its Budget Proposals and the proposed utilisation of funds. The presentation inter-alia covered the following points:

- a) Achievements of the Indian Fisheries Sector.
- b) Schemes and Programmes of the Fisheries Sector.
- c) Investment and Outcomes of PMMSY.
- d) Financial and Physical progress of PMMSY.
- e) Allocation and Expenditure under Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Castes Sub Plan.
- f) Development of North East Region (NER).
- g) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund.
- h) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY)
- i) Funds allocated to the Department and Expenditure incurred during the last four years.
- j) Review of financial progress of States/UTs by Department of Fisheries.
- k) Budget Announcements of 2025-26.
- l) New Initiatives of Department of Fisheries, Gol.

4. The Chairperson and the Members of the Committee raised several issues/points as briefly mentioned below and sought clarifications from the Department. The Points raised included, inter-alia;

- a) Sand Mining in deep-sea and its effects on fishing activities and the dangers it poses for the ecological balance, biodiversity and sustainability of the marine resources.
- b) Under-utilisation of budget allocated to the Department for implementation of various schemes meant for the benefits of poor fishermen.
- c) Monitoring of expenditure incurred by States on implementation of various schemes/ programmes from the funds allocated by Central Government.
- d) Dissemination of information regarding the schemes of the Department meant for poor fish farmers who do not have digital access.
- e) Registration of fish farmers who do not have mobile/internet access in National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP).
- f) Token loan for small fish farmers and financing of fishermen societies/cooperatives.
- g) Corpus for annual maintenance/repair of fishing ponds.
- h) Promotion of fishing and development of sea weeds on islands such as Andaman & Nicobar etc.
- i) Development of traditional fishermen villages alongside rivers other than coastal villages as climate resilient villages.
- j) Fast tracking of the development of smart and integrated fishing harbor at Vanakbara, Diu.
- k) Full utilisation of funds allocated by the centre under various schemes/programmes meant for the UT of Daman and Diu.
- l) Addressing the issues related to gradual decrease in the number of fishing boats operating in Diu, and encroachment of land, traditionally used for drying of fishes and other fishing activities such as stitching of Nets by local fishermen community.
- m) Release of subsidies for boats and compensation for fishermen affected by cyclone Tauktai in Diu.
- n) Status of fishing cooperatives to be developed by NFDB and measures taken for their strengthening.
- o) Containing the illegal fishing activities such as LED fishing and Bull Trawling.
- p) Targeted schemes for the traditional fishing communities such as Kewat, Mallah, and Nishad residing in state of Uttar Pradesh.
- q) Ensuring that the benefits of KCC reach the poor and marginal fish farmers.
- r) Outcomes of PMMSY such as increasing fish production exports, reduction of Post Harvest Losses and employment generation.
- s) Exploring the possibility where State Governments allocate their share of budget for the schemes/programmes being implemented and thereafter, the Centre can release their matching share.

- t) Ensuring that the interests of poor and small fishermen are protected and big fishing industries/mafia do not forcefully harvest all the sea resources?
- u) Insurance schemes for fishermen in the country for providing life cover.

5. The Representatives of the Department responded to some of the queries raised by the Members.

6. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for sharing valuable information with the Committee and directed them to furnish the requisite information on the points/items which were not readily available with them to the Secretariat by **5th March, 2025**, positively.

The Committee then adjourned.

(A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the Sitting has been kept separately.)

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)**

The Committee sat on Monday, 18th March, 2025 from 1000 hours to 1105 hours in Committee Room No. 2, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Hon'ble Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
4. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
5. Shri Kuldeep Indora
6. Md. Abu Taher Khan
7. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
8. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
9. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
10. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
11. Shri Dharambir Singh
12. Shri Dushyant Singh
13. Shri Sudhakar Singh
14. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
15. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
16. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

Rajya Sabha

17. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
18. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
19. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
20. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
21. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
22. Shri Madan Rathore
23. Shri P. P. Suneer
24. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Srinivasulu Gunda | – | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Khakhai Zou | – | Director |
| 3. | Shri Anil Kumar Sanwaria | – | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration and adoption the following Reports:

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--|------|------|------|-------|
| (i) | Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries); | | | | |
| (ii) | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx; |
| (iii) | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx; |
| (iv) | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx; |

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the Draft Report at Sl. No. (ii) with some modifications as shown at Annexure. The Draft Reports at Sl. No. (i), (iii) and (iv) were adopted without any modifications and the Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.