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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING**

(2024-25)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)**

**‘Employment Generation and Revenue Earning Potential of
Fisheries Sector’**

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations
contained in the Seventieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee
on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2023-24)}**

THIRTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

MARCH, 2025 /PHALGUNA 1946 (SAKA)

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AND FOOD PROCESSING**

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(Department of Fisheries)**

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on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2023-24)}**

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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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2023-24)	(ii)
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2024-25)	(iv)
INTRODUCTION	(vi)
CHAPTER I Report	1-12
CHAPTER II Observations / Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government	13-38
CHAPTER III Observations / Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	39-40
CHAPTER IV Observations / Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	41
CHAPTER V Observations / Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	42-44

ANNEXURE

I. Minutes of the 23 rd Sitting of the Committee held on 18.03.2025	45-46
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APPENDIX

I. Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Seventieth Report (17 th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2023-24)	47
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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2023-24)**

Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Horen Sing Bey
3. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
4. Shri Kanakmal Katara
5. Shri Abu Taher Khan
6. Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu
7. Shri Mohan Mandavi
8. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
9. Smt. Sharda Anilkumar Patel
10. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
11. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil
12. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
13. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
14. Shri Sushil Kumar Rinku
15. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
16. Mohammad Sadique
17. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
20. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav
21. *VACANT*

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
23. Shri Masthan Rao Beedha Yadav
24. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
25. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
26. Shri Kailash Soni
27. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala
28. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
29. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar*
30. Shri Vaiko
31. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav

**Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, MP, Rajya Sabha has been nominated to the Committee vide Bulletin Part-II, Para No. 7523 dated 29.09.2023 vice Shri Surendra Singh Nagar w.e.f. 26.09.2023*

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri Shiv Kumar Wadhawan | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj | - | Director |
| 3. Shri N. Amarathiagan | - | Under Secretary |
| 4. Shri Ashwaghosh Bhaurao Lokhande | - | Under Secretary |

**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
5. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
6. Shri Kuldeep Indora
7. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
8. Md. Abu Taher Khan
9. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
10. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
11. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
12. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
13. Shri Narayan TatuRane
14. Shri Murasoli S
15. Shri Dharambir Singh
16. Shri Dushyant Singh
17. Shri Sudhakar Singh
18. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
19. Shri Tejasvi Surya
20. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
21. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
23. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
24. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
25. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
26. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
27. Shri Madan Rathore
28. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
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 (2024-25), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirteenth Report on Action-taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Seventieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2023-24) on the subject 'Employment Generation and Revenue Earning Potential of Fisheries Sector' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries).

2. The Seventieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2023-24) on the subject 'Employment Generation and Revenue Earning Potential of Fisheries Sector' (2023-24) pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2024. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 7 May, 2024.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 18.03.2025.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Seventieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix-I**.

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

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

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Seventieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2023-24) on the subject 'Employment Generation and Revenue Earning Potential of Fisheries Sector' of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 7th February, 2024.

1.2 The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 18 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These Replies have been scrutinised and categorised as under:-

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| (i) | Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government:
Recommendation Para Nos.1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12,13,14,15,16,17,18 | Total 15
Chapter-II |
| (ii) | Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:
Recommendation Para No. 3, | Total 01
Chapter-III |
| (iii) | Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Recommendation Para Nos. Nil | Total 0
Chapter-IV |
| (iv) | Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:
Recommendation Para No. 6, 8 | Total 02
Chapter-V |

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/ Recommendations accepted by the Government. In case where it is not possible for the Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that future Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the Observations/Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

NEED FOR A SEPARATE RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR FISHERIES SECTOR (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.6)

1.5 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

The Committee are happy to note that India has rich and diverse fisheries resources ranging from deep seas to lakes, ponds, rivers and more than 10 Percent of the global biodiversity in terms of fish and shellfish species. Acknowledging the potential of Fisheries Sector of the country, the Government of India created a separate Department of Fisheries in February, 2019 to supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories and to provide sustained and focussed attention towards development of Fisheries Sector of the country. The Fisheries Sector contributes around 6.72% to Agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) and 1.24 to National GVA in 2021-22 and is a major employment generator in direct as well as allied fishery activities. The Fisheries Sector of the country possesses a huge untapped potential. At present, the national level research activities in Fisheries Sector are undertaken under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Committee, taking into account these factors, recommend that a separate Research Council for Fishery Sector namely Indian Council for Fishery and Aquaculture Research under the Department of Fisheries be constituted as it would not only facilitate focussed and in-depth research in the Sector but also address the challenges faced by the Sector.

1.6 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted:-

At present, there is no proposal to establish a separate Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Council. However, upon creation of a new Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, a Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Sanjiv Balyan, Hon'ble MoS for Fisheries, Animal husbandry and dairying to recommend setting up of a Research Council to address research in fisheries and veterinary science.

1.7 Acknowledging the huge potential of fisheries sector in the Country and its contribution to Agricultural and National GVA, the Committee had recommended that a separate Research Council for fishery sector namely Indian Council for Fishery and Aquaculture Research under the Department of Fisheries be constituted as it would not only facilitate focussed and in-depth research, but also address the challenges faced by the fishery sector. The Department in their reply have stated that a Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Sanjiv Balyan, the then Hon'ble MoS for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying to recommend the setting up of a Research Council to address research in fisheries and veterinary science. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised about the outcome of the committee constituted for setting up of a Research Council and further reiterate their earlier recommendation that a separate Research Council for Fishery Sector namely Indian Council for Fishery and Aquaculture Research may be established taking into consideration the future prospects and importance of fishery sector in the country.

**FISH MEAL FISH OIL INDUSTRIES (FMFO)
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.7)**

1.8 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

The Committee understand that sustainable fishing is imperative to the preservation of fish stocks and the survival of marine ecology and therefore for sustainable development of marine fisheries efforts should be taken to control the harvesting of juvenile fishes, which is also one of the reasons for the decline of many Fish Species including the Indian Oil Sardine and edible fishes. The Committee have been informed that the juvenile fish losses mainly occur when

they are caught as Non-targeted Species in Trawls. The Committee understand that the practices such as Bull trawling and LED Fishing used by FMFO Industries are a major cause for such juvenile fish losses. The Committee therefore recommend that the Minimum Legal Mesh Size regulation as declared by the States like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa to avoid juvenile and small fishes catch in Trawls also needs be implemented by other States and the Department should take active steps in pursuing all States/UTs to implements such regulations. Further, the Department should devise a foolproof mechanism in coordination with the States/UTs to stop the use of destructive and banned fishing practices like Bull Trawling and LED Fishing.

1.9 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated:-

The Department of Fisheries, Gol vide OM dated 17.12.2020 *inter alia* advised States/UTs to make provisions in their Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) for implementation of the Minimal Legal Size (MLS) for various species of fishes as recommended by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). This has already been implemented by states like Kerala. Accordingly, remaining Coastal States have been requested to expedite issue of similar notification. In addition, all the Coastal States have also been prescribed use of square mesh cod ends in the trawlers as recommended by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) to enable escape of juvenile fishes.

Besides, all the Coastal States/UTs have been requested to take necessary measures to reduce fishing efforts, and to prescribe maximum size and minimum mesh size for principal fishing nets as recommended by CIFT. Further, the functioning of fish feed/ fish meal units in the States/UTs are being monitored continuously, sensitizing the use of juvenile fish as feed ingredient, and advised not to procure juvenile fish and about the stringent action against the errant units. Further, it has been requested to all the States/UTs to complete directory of the fish meal and fish oil plant units with necessary details for monitoring their activity. Massive awareness campaign among fishermen in all coastal districts regarding the ill effects of juvenile fishing and other destructive fishing practices and the need for adopting sustainable fishing practices has been launched. Funds for such activities made available under PMMSY Scheme through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

Furthermore, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, notified the 'National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017' to guide the responsible and sustainable fishing. Besides, Government of India promotes sustainable fishing and has issued advisories from time to time to coastal States/UTs for preventing juvenile fishing and ban on destructive fishing practices for ensuring sustainable fishing. Paired bottom trawling or bull trawling and use of artificial LED lights in fishing are banned in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The uniform ban on fishing in the Indian EEZ, beyond the territorial waters is also implemented for a period of 61 days, from 15th April to 14th June on the East Coast and from 1st June to 31st July on the West Coast, to ensure sustainable fishing.

1.10 The Committee had recommended that Minimum Legal Mesh Size regulation as declared by the States like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa to avoid juvenile and small fishes catch in Trawls should also be implemented by other States and advised that the Department should take active steps in pursuing all States/UTs to implements such regulations. The Committee appreciate the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard by advising the States/UTs to make provisions in their Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRA) for implementation of Minimal Legal Size (MLS) for various species of fishes. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by the States, other than, the five states mentioned above, in incorporating the said MLS in MFRA. In case, these are not included, the Committee reiterate that the Department should actively pursue with States/UTs so that they adhere to the MLS guidelines and thereby promote sustainable fishing practices. Further, along with monitoring the functioning of Fish Meal Fish Oil (FMFO) industries, the Department should also devise a mechanism so as to penalise the errant FMFO units who indulge in procuring juvenile fish and also resort to using the banned Bull Trawling and LED fishing practices.

INSURANCE SCHEME FOR DAM FISHERS (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO 8)

1.11 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

The Committee note that the Department of Fisheries, through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is implementing Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) for Fishers under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana since 26.07.2021. Fishers involved in fishing at reservoirs/dams are also eligible to insure their lives against heavy rainfall/ natural disaster under this Scheme through the respective State Fisheries Departments/Union Territories. With regard to Dam Fishers, the Committee have been apprised that during heavy rainfall when the gates of the Dams are opened, the seeds planted by the Fishers in these Dams also gets washed away causing heavy losses to them and therefore recommend that the Department should design a Scheme for Dam Fishers, similar to crop insurance given under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to extend them insurance coverage against losses during heavy rainfall. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

1.12 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted:-

The Department has launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Krishi Sah-Samridhi Yojana (PM-MKSSY) a central sector sub-scheme under the ongoing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at a total outlay of Rs. 6000 crore for a period of four years from 2023-24 to 2026-27 wherein provision has been made for insurance of intensive form of aquaculture which also includes cage culture for fishers among others with a maximum unit size eligible to 1800m². At present the various guidelines including for crop aquaculture insurance for implementation of the scheme are being prepared and shall be launched shortly.

1.13 The Committee had categorically recommended that the Department should devise a scheme similar on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the Dam Fishers so as to insure the losses incurred by them during heavy rain falls. The Department, however, in their reply have stated that under PMMKSY there is provision for insurance for intensive form of aquaculture and also stated that various guidelines including guidelines for crop aquaculture insurance are

being prepared. The Committee appreciate the initiatives taken by the Department towards Aquaculture Insurance and would further like to be apprised about the details of the guidelines as and when they are finalized. However, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that a scheme should also be devised for insuring the aquaculture crop of fishers in Reservoirs/Dams.

IMPORT IN FISHERIES SECTOR (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO 14)

1.14 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

The Committee have been informed that there are certain fish varieties such as *Haddock*, *Cod*, *Flat-Fish*, *Salmon*, *Pallock*, *Argentinean Red Shrimp*, *Norway Lobster* which are found only in Temperate countries and certain varieties are being imported for supply to Hotel, Restaurants and Cafes and as such imports of these Fish varieties cannot be avoided. The Committee have also been informed that *L. Vannamei* Shrimp constitutes almost 90 to 95 percent of our exports, however, the Mother Stock of *L. Vannamei* Shrimp is imported. In this regard, the Committee recommend that urgent necessary action be taken to produce Mother Stock of *L. Vannamei* Shrimp in the Country thereby reducing the import dependency. The Committee further note that to reduce this single species dependency on *L. Vannamei* and species diversification two options are available i.e. *P. Modonon* and *P. Indicus* and accordingly recommend that the Department should make sure that the Genetic improvement Program by the Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA) for development of *P. Indicus* (an indigenous Shrimp) and the Nucleus Breeding Centre (NBC) Project of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) located at Andaman and Nicobar Islands for development of *P. Monodon* are fast tracked and completed in a time bound manner so that the Country moves up the ladder in achieving self-sufficiency by reducing import of Shrimp Brood Stocks and thereby living true to the spirit of the *Atma Nirbhar Bharat*.

1.15 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted:-

The Department of Fisheries, Gol has approved the project proposal of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) entitled "Development of Indigenous Shrimp (Indian white shrimp) Aquaculture: Genetic Improvement

Program of *Penaeus indicus*, Phase-I" with a total project cost of Rs. 2504.40 lakh under central sector component of PMMSY. In addition, Department, is supporting NBC project of MPEDA-RGCA Andaman and Nicobar Island on Domestication of Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*). In this regard, Department has approved (i) Establishment of Shrimp Evaluation Study Unit (ESU) for *P. monodon* to evaluate the reproductive and growth performance of founder families of DTSP at Rajakkamangalam, Kanyakumari District" with a total project cost of Rs. 6.75 crore and (ii) Establishment of Pilot Scale BMC for *P. monodon* (Conversion of *L. Vannamei* BMC to *P. monodon* BMC) at a cost of Rs 5.32 crore. The Department is closely monitoring the progress of all these projects to ensure their timely completion and to maximize the benefits for shrimp farmers and the overall aquaculture sector.

1.16 The Committee noted that *L. Vannamei* Shrimp constitutes almost 90 to 95 percent of the country's aquaculture exports, however, the Mother Stock of *L. Vannamei* shrimp is imported. In this regard, the Committee recommended that urgent necessary action be taken to produce Mother Stock of *L. Vannamei* Shrimp in the Country, thereby, reducing the import dependency. The Department, however, in their reply have not given any update in this regard *i.e.* measures undertaken to produce mother stock of *L. Vannamei* Shrimp. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Department should undertake necessary steps to produce the mother stock of *L. Vannamei* Shrimp in the country so as to reduce the dependency on its import.

EXPORTS IN FISHERIES SECTOR (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO 15)

1.17 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

The Committee understand that to achieve the export target set under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) that is to double the export earnings to Rs. 1 lakh crores by the year 2024-25, interventions in areas such as Shrimp productivity, post-harvest infrastructure, improving certification and traceability and awareness of quality products are required. The Committee appreciates the efforts taken by the Department for diversification of aquaculture species and Tilapia Fish in particular so as to increase its export by funding

Tilapia Hatcheries and Tilapia Culture through Recirculation Aquaculture System (RAS), Cage culture and Pond Culture. Further, MPEDA- Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture has also standardised the Hatchery and grow out farming technology of Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT). In this regard, the Committee recommend that similar efforts and technological hand holding should be accorded to other Inland Fresh Water commercially important Fish varieties such as Rohu, Catla, Magur, Vaam and Hilsa so that they contribute in achieving the targets set under the PMMSY. The Committee note that Disease Management and Certification and Traceability are very important areas where intervention is needed so as to increase the export competitiveness of the Fisheries Sector and thus, a mechanism should be put in place which would make the Fish Farmers aware of the contents of the Aquaculture Inputs such as production booster used by them. The Committee also recommend that the issues pertaining to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT), which are hampering the exports to various countries need be addressed in a concrete manner and the Department should strive hard to overcome these issues.

1.18 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted:-

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana being implemented with effect from 2020-21 intends to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernization and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare. Under the PMMSY, aquaculture is one of the prominent activities for enhancing fish production. PMMSY also focuses on expansion, diversification and intensification of aquaculture including productive utilization of land and water, supply of quality and affordable seed and feed, species diversification and genetic improvement, aquatic health management, infusion of modern technologies such as Re-circulatory Aquaculture Systems, Biofloc, cage culture, pen culture, sea ranching, artificial reefs, mariculture including open sea cage culture etc. PMMSY *inter-alia* provides financial support for post- harvest facilities, fish transport, value addition & marketing to improve value realization to fishers, construction of ponds, tanks, hatcheries and necessary inputs for undertaking fish farming, and development of

fisheries infrastructure, cold chain facilities, fish market infrastructure and such other activities to improve price realization.

In regard to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT), as per the legal and trade policies, importing countries enforce various regulatory measures to ensure the safety and quality of the products placed in their markets. The range and stringency of the requirements, including prior registration, testing and certification may differ from one country to another, depending on their developmental status as well status of their regulatory structures. These measures apply equally to both domestic manufacturers and the importers. However, such measures may sometimes act as trade barriers due to various reasons such as gap in the regulatory frameworks and quality compliance requirements of the trade partners, lack of transparency, arbitrariness or differing interpretation of the rules, improper implementation etc.

It is pertinent to mention that taking cognizance of the challenges involved in mapping the trade barriers, and to give increased focus, a task force has been setup under Department of Commerce, to identify, categorize and develop tailored strategies for resolution of these identified non-tariff barriers. Further, the Export Promotion councils, dedicated commodity and territorial divisions within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, also constantly monitor and keep track of the emerging trade barriers and work with stakeholders, through bilateral institutional mechanisms to resolve measures that unnecessarily restrict trade. Department of Fisheries, Gol regularly discuss the non-tariff barriers under available institutional frameworks with Department of Commerce. Further, in some Free Trade Agreements, specific provisions are available for regulatory cooperation and expediting regulatory approvals including through Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). The resolution of trade barriers including ensuring increased and effective market access is a continuous process and endeavor. Department of Fisheries also engages in regulatory cooperation to help ensure that global rules governing the regulatory structures are favorable and consistent.

1.19 The Committee appreciate the persistent measures undertaken by the Department in collaboration with the Department of Commerce so as to address the issues pertaining to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barrier to Trade

(TBT). However, the Committee had also recommended that technological hand holding as has been provided for development and export of Tilapia Fish should be accorded to other Inland fresh water commercially important fish varieties such as Rohu, Catla, Magur, Vaam and Hilsa so that they also contribute in achieving the export earnings targets set under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The Department, however, has not given any information on the same. Further, the Committee had also recommended that a mechanism may be put in place which would make the fish farmers aware of the contents of the aquaculture inputs used by them such as production booster to address the issues of Content labeling, Certification and Traceability. The Department, however, has not given any reply on the same. The Committee therefore reiterate their recommendation and suggest that the Department should actively take measures and provide technological handholding for development and export of Inland fresh water commercially important variety of fishes other than Tilapia and also put in place a robust mechanism so as to address the issues of Content labeling and Certification so that the fish exports from the country are not rejected by importing countries on grounds of not adhering to International/European Standards and having banned contents or doubtful traceability.

KISAN CREDIT CARD (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO 16)

1.20 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

The Committee note that the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility was extended to Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Farmers in 2018-19 to help them meet their Working Capital needs. The Rate of Interest on the Loans under KCC is presently 7% and 3% subvention is given by the Central Government in case of timely repayment by the Farmers. However, some States are also giving another 4% Subvention/Rebate from their own account to make the real rate of interest to Zero for the Farmers. The Committee appreciate that separate Working Capital and Term Loan Targets for KCC have been accorded to the Fisheries Sector by the Department of Financial Services so as to improve the credit flow into the Sector. The Committee further note that a large number of applications from Fishers Sector for KCC remain pending in many States/UTs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that KCC be issued to all eligible persons without delay. The Committee also recommend that the Department should

coordinate with all the States/UTs so as to explore the possibility of providing Interest Free Loans to Farmers under KCC as has been done by some States by extending another 4 Percent of Interest Subvention/Rebate over and above the 3 Percent available, so that the interest rate under KCC becomes zero.

1.21 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted:-

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, has been streamlining the process of credit delivery through KCC to animal husbandry and fisheries farmers, by issuing the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) / Guidelines for the issue of separate KCC for animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries farmers to all banks on 24.09.2021. Thereafter, DFS, vide letter dated 28.04.2023 and email dated 24.08.2023 has advised all banks and SLBCs respectively, to dispose of all the pending applications for the fisheries sector. The DFS, along with the Department of Fisheries, is reviewing from time to time the progress of the KCC facility for fish farmers through nation-wide campaigns and other modes of outreach for optimum saturation of the Kisan Credit Card scheme.

The Committee's recommendation for exploring the possibility of providing interest-free loans to farmers under KCC has been taken up with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, M/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, which has introduced and runs the KCC Scheme.

1.22 The Committee appreciate that the Department has taken up the recommendation of the Committee, for providing interest-free loans to farmers under KCC, with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, M/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GOI which has introduced and runs the KCC scheme. However, the Committee would like to be further apprised on the matter and also reiterate its earlier recommendation that the Department should coordinate with all the States/UTs and explore the possibility of providing Interest free loans to farmers under KCC as has been done by some States by extending another 4 Percent of Interest Subvention/Rebate over and above the 3 Percent available, so that the interest rate under KCC becomes zero.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

1. ACTION PLAN FOR UTILIZATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee note that Marine Resources of the country comprise an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.02 Million Sq. Kms, a Continental Shelf area of 0.53 Million Sq. Kms and a Coastline of 8,118 Kms. The inland resources comprise of 0.27 Million Kms of rivers and canals, 1.2 million ha floodplain lakes, 2.45 Million Ha of Ponds and Tanks and 3.15 Million Ha of Reservoirs. Inland Fisheries presently have a share of 75 Percent in total Fish Production of the country. In 2018, total fisheries potential of India was estimated at 22.31 MMT consisting of the Marine Fisheries potential at 5.31 MMT and the Inland Fisheries potential at 17 MMT. During 2021-22, 77 Percent of Marine Fisheries potential and 71 Percent of the Inland Fisheries potential have been harnessed. During the financial year 2022-23, out of the estimated total Fish Production of 16.24 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) the contribution of Inland sector was 12.12 MMT and that of marine sector was 4.13 MMT. The full potential of the Fisheries Sector is yet to be realized due to critical gaps in production inputs, investment, infrastructure, value addition, technological know-how and skilled manpower. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Government should prepare an action plan for optimal utilization of its Inland and Marine resources especially Deep-sea fishing Resources in a time bound manner. The Committee feel that New Scheme Components may be formulated under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) and the Prime Minister Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for the purpose. The Committee would like a to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fisheries, (erstwhile Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries on 09.3.2017 had introduced a sub-component under Blue Revolution Scheme, namely, “Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing” which aims to promote Deep Sea Fishing to the Indian traditional fishers. Based on the amended guidelines of Blue Revolution Scheme for component of assistance for Deep Sea Fishing with central

financial assistance of 50 % of the project cost subject to maximum of Rs. 40 lakh per vessel was released to Govt. of Tamil Nadu. For other states/UTs i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Daman & Diu, financial assistance for Deep Sea Fishing was same as it is being implemented in the entire scheme of Blue Revolution i.e. 40% for general categories; 60% for SC-ST & Women (with 60:40 percent of subsidy sharing between Centre and State) as per the guidelines. Under the said scheme, the Central Government has provided financial assistance for procurement of resource specific Deep Sea Fishing Vessels at the unit cost of Rs.80 lakhs for tuna long lining by traditional fishers/ their Self-Help Groups/ Associations, etc.

Another sub-component namely “Conversion of Trawlers into Resource Specific Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels” has also been introduced by Department of Fisheries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries on 27th August 2018 to provide financial assistance to fishermen for Conversion of Trawlers into Resource Specific Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels, for which unit cost was limited to Rs.15 lakhs for central financial assistance. The scheme is being implemented by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.

Currently, financial assistance is being provided under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) through States/UTs to traditional fishermen for acquiring deep sea fishing vessels (unit cost of Rs.120 lakhs), for up gradation of existing fishing vessels for export competency (unit cost of Rs.15lakhs) and for fishing gear for fishermen/fishermen groups through State/UT Governments (unit cost of Rs.5lakhs). The subsidy assistance is being provided @ 40% for general categories; 60% for SC-ST & Women (with 60:40 percent of subsidy sharing between Centre and State) as per the guidelines. Training and capacity building for undertaking deep-sea fishing is also being supported under PMMSY, if required, in collaboration with important maritime nations. Financial assistance is also provided to coastal states/UTs for acquiring of technologically advanced fishing vessels with unit cost of Rs.5000 lakhs.

Furthermore, to address the infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector, the Government of India, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during 2018-19 created and implemented the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure

Development Fund (FIDF) with a total funds size of Rs 7522.48 crore. The FIDF further intensifies development of various fisheries infrastructures like fishing harbours, fish landing centers, ice plants, cold storage, fish transport facilities, integrated cold chain, modern fish markets, Brood Banks, Hatcheries, aquaculture development, Fish Seed Farms, state of art of fisheries training centres, fish processing units, fish feed mills/plants, cage culture in reservoir, Introduction Deep Sea Fishing Vessels, disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Mariculture and Aquatic Quarantine Facilities.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

2. CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION IN FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee note that Fisheries is a fast-growing Sector in India, which provides nutrition and food security to a large population of the country besides providing livelihood, income and employment to more than 2.80 crore people. However, the Fisheries Sector has the risk of losing its sustainable production in the long run unless necessary conservation measures are taken. Factors such as Overfishing, Harmful fishing practices, Pollution, Disease outbreak, Destruction of habitat, Climate change, etc. would adversely affect the Fisheries Resources of the country. Conservation and Resource enhancement measures are essential to ensure aquatic bio-diversity and sustainability in Fisheries Sector. Against this backdrop, the Committee appreciate that the Government has banned Bull-trawling and use of Artificial Lights / LED Light for fishing. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department needs to taken proactive conservation measures to protect sustainability of fishery resources and Fisheries Sector of the country. The Committee, in particular, desire that breeding and propagation of all important fish species of the country be ensured by suitably developing hatchery infrastructure of Fisheries Sector of the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action in the matter.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a flagship scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for a period of 5 years with effect from the financial year 2020-21 to

FY 2024-25 in all the States and Union Territories (UTs) for holistic development of the fisheries sector in the country under which several initiatives have been taken as proactive conservation measures to protect sustainability of fishery resources and Fisheries Sector of the country. The brief of these initiatives taken by the Department are as under:

Conservation of fishery resources is a vital aspect of sustainable fisheries management. Seasonal ban on fishing or also referred to as 'closed season' is an important measure of conservation being practiced in the country. Recognizing the need to improve the sustainability of the resources, stem the depletion and also save lives when the seas are rough, placing a **seasonal fishing ban** with the twin objectives of resource sustainability and reducing accidents/fatalities at sea was initiated by the then Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in the mid-nineties that subsequently led to the enforcement of a uniform seasonal ban on fishing in the territorial waters under the jurisdiction of the coastal States and the Union Territories and also in the EEZ. Accordingly, currently, 61 days of uniform seasonal fishing ban is implemented in both East coast (15th April to 14th June) and West Coast (1st June to 31st July.), as per the order issued from this Department.

Similarly, some of the inland States also impose restrictions or seasonal ban on fishing activities during monsoon period to facilitate spawning and recruitment of fishes. The states of Chhattisgarh (16th June-15th August), Bihar (15th June -15th August), Assam (1st April 15th July), Himachal Pradesh (16th June-15th august), Madhya Pradesh (15th June-15th August) and Uttar Pradesh (15th June-31st August), have reported to impose fishing ban in the inland natural waters as a measure of conservation of fishes in the respective states.

Further, riverine fishery resources are increasingly threatened by the environmental pollution and human activities, dominating the natural ecosystem and this impact has accelerated an irreversible damage to the habitat, ecosystem functioning, biodiversity, and the traditional fishery and artificial-culture industries. River Ranching helps in achieving sustainable fisheries, reducing habitat degradation, conserving biodiversity, maximizing social-economic benefits, and assessing ecosystem services. Recognizing its importance and keeping in view of aims & objectives of PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has incorporated this additional activity for River Ranching under the Central Sector Component of PMMSY to sustain and conserve the biodiversity in

the river, facilitate regular stocking of fingerlings of cultivable carps to enhance productivity, increase fish production, enhance income and livelihood opportunities to communities' dependent on these resources. In this regard, the Department under the aforesaid Scheme has so far sanctioned ranching of 1007.59 lakh fingerlings at a total cost of 30.23 crore in 17 states namely Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Sikkim, West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

PMMSY also supports fish seed stocking of reservoirs, wetlands like *beels*, ox-bow lakes etc. to enhance the production of these essential waterbodies. Reservoirs are usually called 'sleeping giants' because their potential is untapped. PMMSY supports stocking of reservoirs with quality fingerlings of Indian Major Carps and other suitable species, creation of in-situ hatcheries and fingerlings rearing units for production of quality fingerlings for stocking, integrated development of reservoirs etc. Till date under PMMSY, 4.17 lakh hectares of Reservoir area have been stocked with 41.68 crore fingerlings at a total investment of Rs. 226.48 crore.

Besides, to improve the condition of coastal fisheries, The Department in 2022-23 under PMMSY has introduced Artificial Reefs and Sea Ranching activities, to help in rebuilding of fish stocks and to promote sustainability in inshore/coastal fisheries. Artificial reefs are man-made or natural objects placed in selected areas of the marine environment to provide or improve solid and rough bottom habitat and thereby increase the productivity and harvest ability of certain fish valuable to fishers. They help in augmenting the productivity of the marine ecosystem by increasing the available area for food, shelter and breeding activities for fishes and other marine organisms and by increasing the breeding activity and the survival of young ones. While, sea ranching technique involves brood stock development, breeding, larval rearing on large scale, nursery rearing, release of seed at suitable sites and monitoring of the released and natural stocks to assess the impact. Till date, under PMMSY, installation of 720 Artificial reef units have been sanctioned at an investment of Rs. 224.10 crore.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

4. RURAL FISHERS AND PRESERVATION OF INDIGENOUS BREEDS

The Committee understand that the Indigenous Breeds of fishes form a major component for providing nutrition to the Rural Fishers and the preservation of such Indigenous Breeds is very important for the economic and nutritional well being of the Rural Fishers. The Committee appreciate that for conserving Indigenous Breeds the Department of Fisheries encourages River Ranching under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. However, the Committee have been informed that the commercial breeding, propagation and culture expansion of the fish species like Magur, Singhi, Pabda and Koi which have medicinal properties has been low due lack of adequate Hatchery Infrastructure and therefore recommend that the Department should strive towards establishing necessary Hatchery Infrastructure required for all important indigenous species of the country.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

It is essential to expand (both horizontally and vertically), intensify and diversify inland fisheries and aquaculture, focus on diversification of species, introduction of new species and peg the critical gaps in the demand and supply of quality brood and seed of cultivable species and species-specific feeds. Accordingly, the Department under PMMSY supports Species Diversification through new candidate species having high production and market potential like Pangasius, Tilapia species, native catfishes (magur and singhi) and Scampi (freshwater prawn). Hatchery technology of catfishes (Singhi and Magur) has been established by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) and currently the technology transfers for the same along with necessary training and knowledge dissemination to the farmers and prospective private beneficiaries are being carried out by ICAR-CIFA. Further it may be stated that a National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) was established in the year 2013, under the aegis of National Fisheries Development Board which maintains good quality and/ or genetically improved Fish brood-stock obtained from research organizations in order to produce breeder seed and distribute these breeder seed (fry/fingerlings), including indigenous fish breeds like magur and Singhi, to accredited hatcheries as source for brood stock for

further multiplication and supply to farmers to meet the seed demand from across the states in support of fisheries sector growth.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

5. PROMOTION OF DEEP-SEA FISHING TOWARDS OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES

The Committee note that the country has an estimated harvestable marine fisheries potential of 5.31 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) which include the Deep-sea resources of 3.30 MMT in its Exclusive Economic Zone. The Deep-sea Resources have further harvestable potential in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). The Committee while appreciating the efforts of the Government to promote Deep-sea fishing through different Scheme components of the Central Sector Scheme on Blue Revolution and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, hold the view that the Department should strive hard to fully utilize the Deep-sea resources of the country. Proper utilization of available resources besides generating additional employment opportunities would also bring proportionate revenues for the States. The Committee also appreciate the efforts taken by the Department in modernising the Deep Sea Fishing Vessels and providing on board training to traditional fishermen for enhancing their skills and capabilities and modernising of Fishing Harbors and recommend that the Department should strive harder to see that these initiatives bear fruit in a target oriented and time bound manner so that large deep sea long liners equipped with adequate carrying capacity and On-board Post Harvest Handling Facilities are commissioned to harness the deep sea resources of the Country to the fullest.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for procurement of Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels from the empanelled shipyards is developed by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and three variants of Fishing vessels designs are developed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. These SoPs and variant models recommended by the nodal authority of the MoPSW have been shared with the Coastal States/UTs for implementation. Further an updated SOP developed by MoPS&W for procurement of

Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels of both steel hull and FRP Fishing Vessels with qualifications of FRP boat building yard was also circulated to coastal States/UTs.

Besides, the Department through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under PMMSY provides financial assistance for Capacity Building of fishermen in Deep Sea Fishing & Onboard Handling of Tuna Training Programme for Fishermen and Skill Development Programmes for Fishermen through Central Fisheries Nautical Engineering and Training (CIFNET).

Besides, financial support to ITUS Sports and Safety Pvt. Ltd. for organizing capacity building activities for empowering Fishermen and Marine Enforcement Wing candidates of Tamil Nadu State on various rescue operations with different courses like i) Open Water Rescue Course, ii) Rescue Boat Operations Course, iii) Advance Technical Rescue Course, iv) Maintenance Technical Course have also been provided.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

7. FISH MEAL FISH OIL INDUSTRIES (FMFO)

The Committee understand that sustainable fishing is imperative to the preservation of fish stocks and the survival of marine ecology and therefore for sustainable development of marine fisheries efforts should be taken to control the harvesting of juvenile fishes, which is also one of the reasons for the decline of many Fish Species including the Indian Oil Sardine and edible fishes. The Committee have been informed that the juvenile fish losses mainly occur when they are caught as Non-targeted Species in Trawls. The Committee understand that the practices such as Bull trawling and LED Fishing used by FMFO Industries are a major cause for such juvenile fish losses. The Committee therefore recommend that the Minimum Legal Mesh Size regulation as declared by the States like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa to avoid juvenile and small fishes catch in Trawls also needs be implemented by other States and the Department should take active steps in pursuing all States/UTs to implements such regulations. Further, the Department should devise a foolproof mechanism in coordination with the States/UTs to stop the use of destructive and banned fishing practices like Bull Trawling and LED Fishing.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fisheries, GoI vide OM dated 17.12.2020 *inter alia* advised States/UTs to make provisions in their Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) for implementation of the Minimal Legal Size (MLS) for various species of fishes as recommended by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). This has already been implemented by states like Kerala. Accordingly, remaining Coastal States have been requested to expedite issue of similar notification. In addition, all the Coastal States have also been prescribed use of square mesh cod ends in the trawlers as recommended by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) to enable escape of juveniles fishes.

Besides, all the Coastal States/UTs have been requested to take necessary measures to reduce fishing efforts, and to prescribe maximum size and minimum mesh size for principal fishing nets as recommended by CIFT. Further, the functioning of fish feed/ fish meal units in the States/UTs are being monitored continuously, sensitizing the use of juvenile fish as feed ingredient, and advised not to procure juvenile fish and about the stringent action against the errant units. Further, it has been requested to all the States/UTs to complete directory of the fish meal and fish oil plant units with necessary details for monitoring their activity. Massive awareness campaign among fishermen in all coastal districts regarding the ill effects of juvenile fishing and other destructive fishing practices and the need for adopting sustainable fishing practices has been launched. Funds for such activities made available under PMMSY Scheme through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

Furthermore, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, notified the 'National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017' to guide the responsible and sustainable fishing. Besides, Government of India promotes sustainable fishing and has issued advisories from time to time to coastal States/UTs for preventing juvenile fishing and ban on destructive fishing practices for ensuring sustainable fishing. Paired bottom trawling or bull trawling and use of artificial LED lights in fishing are banned in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The uniform ban on fishing in the Indian EEZ, beyond the territorial waters is also implemented for a period of 61 days, from 15th April to 14th June on the East Coast and from 1st June to 31st July on the West Coast, to ensure sustainable fishing.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.10 of Chapter I of this Report.

9. CAGE CULTURE IN RESERVOIRS

The Committee have been informed that there are about 5701 large dams in the country and many medium and small reservoirs with coverage of about 32 Lakh Hectares. These reservoirs which are also called as 'sleeping giants' if harnessed properly have the capacity to enhance the fish production capacity of the country manifold. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should take concrete steps to promote Cage Culture in these reservoirs so as to increase the Fish production capacity of the Country.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Considering their immense potential, PMMSY supports large-scale cage cultivation in the Reservoir for sustainable utilization of this rightly called, 'sleeping giants' of the Indian aquaculture and inland capture sector to increase the overall production contribution of Inland aquaculture to new heights. Further, due, to the immensely high demand for reservoir cages in the sector, and importance of utilizing these reservoirs, under PMMSY during the last four financial years (2020-21 to 2023-24), 50,710 cages for installation in reservoirs have been sanctioned at a total outlay of Rs.1496.59 crore against the allotted target of 20,000 at an overall outlay of Rs.600 crore which could potentially add to an additional production of 1.52 lakh tonnes @3ton/cage/year.

Additionally, PMMSY supports Integrated development of reservoirs, a Non-beneficiary sub component for holistic development of fisheries in the reservoirs which includes construction of cages with floating working station (large and medium reservoir only), storage shed, purchase of boats with ice holding boxes and necessary gear, construction of landing centre including berthing platforms cum auction centre, establishment of hatchery of appropriate capacity, seed rearing ponds near the reservoirs, establishment of rearing cage for rearing of fingerlings, establishment of

small feed mill, Post-harvest infrastructure for management of processing (depending on the production), marketing in hygienic condition, establishment of ice plant of appropriate production capacity, refrigerated and insulated trucks, auto rickshaw with ice boxes, Motor cycle with ice boxes, setting of fish retail outlets, setting of movable fish retail outlet.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

10. PROMOTION OF FISH PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

The Committee have been informed that India is the Third Largest Fish Producing Country in the world and accounts for 7.96 Percent of the Global Production. The total Fish Production during FY 2022-23 was estimated at 16.25 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) with a contribution of 12.12 MMT from Inland sector and 4.13 MMT from Marine sector. The Fisheries Sector of India has shown an impressive growth rate of 9.03% (Constant Price 2011-12) during 2015-16 to 2020-21. The share of Fisheries Sector in the total Gross Value Added (GVA) was 0.84% in 2011-12 and the same increased to 1.09% in 2020-21. The Per capita Fish Consumption in India was 5 to 6 Kg as compared to 24 Kg in Japan. The Committee also take note that world-wide, the trade in frozen-fish constitutes 80% of trade in fish & fish-products, whereas it negligible in India. Further, the Department has undertaken a study through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to find out the State-wise and major species-wise demand supply gap in the country so as to formulate region specific strategies to increase market infrastructure, supply and consumption. Fish is a cheap source of protein and also possesses certain medicinal value and in addition it also has necessary potential for food-security for the country. Taking into account the aforesaid factors, the Committee recommend that the Department shall expeditiously find out the demand and supply gap in Fish and Fish-products in the country and take appropriate measures to promote fish consumption and production of fish and fish-products including frozen-fish in the country. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

In order to promote the fish production accompanied by enhanced domestic fish consumption in India, Department of Fisheries has undertaken a study to assess the supply and demand gap in production and domestic consumption through **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** which carried out a survey on species-wise fish demand across 24 states/UTs in the country to determine the estimation of consumption demand at the household level and expenditures. A sample of 105 districts was allocated as first-stage units to all 24 selected States/ UTs in proportion to the total number of fish-consuming households. A structured questionnaire and sample of 8,040 households from rural and 4,560 samples from urban, was prepared for this purpose which helped to collate data on the consumption of fish and related expenditures. The study revealed that in 2022 the household monthly consumption expenditure on fish in proportion to total food expenses has gone up to 16.77 per cent as compared to 7.63 per cent in 2011-12 in rural and urban areas combined. Monthly consumption of fish per household has also shown a quantum leap over this period from 2.66 kg in 2011 to 4.99 kg in 2022 (urban and rural areas combined).As regards the consumption by type of fish, freshwater fish has the major share of 77.0 per cent followed by marine fish at 16.0 per cent. The share of processed/ preserved fish forms just 0.3 per cent. Among the states, fish is the most preferred animal product in West Bengal (76 %), followed by Tripura (73%) and Puducherry (68%). Rohu and Catla are the two most preferred freshwater fish species in India. Among Marine fish, *Sardine* and *Bhetki* are mostly preferred.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

11. PROMOTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN FISH PRODUCTION

The Committee note that at present the contribution of Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Fisheries in India's Fish Production is about 75%: 25% respectively and the total fish production during FY 2022-23 was estimated at 16.25 MMT. Adoption of new and innovative production technologies, management and utilization of underutilized water bodies, and deployment of effective marketing strategies are very essential to achieve the targeted increase in fish-production. The Government is implementing the Pradhan

Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Scheme of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF) to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure, strengthening of value chain, enhancement of fisheries export, establishment of robust fisheries management framework, fishers' welfare, etc. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, a target to increase fish production to 22 MMT by the year 2025 has been set. The Committee also taken note that Biofloc Technology (BFT) is one of the highly productive, environment friendly aquaculture techniques which reduces water use, land use, spread of disease, and also reduces the pressure on capture fisheries. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should review the progress in the implementation of PMMSY and take further necessary steps to increase production through popularization of new innovative technologies including like Bio-floc Technology in the Fisheries Sector of the country.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fisheries under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) gives emphasis towards promotion of sustainable fish production systems/methods with minimal environmental impacts. To this extent, interventions aimed at technology infusion and water management to harvest 'more crop per drop' are supported under PMMSY both in inland and marine sectors. Under technology infusion in the aquaculture sector, new technology induction such as High-density aquaculture in ponds, Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and Biofloc culture etc. are supported under PMMSY. As on date, during the last four financial years (2020-21 to 2023-24), 11,995 RAS units at a total outlay of Rs. 888.34 and establishment of 4013 biofloc culture units at a total outlay of Rs. 475.48 crore has been sanctioned under PMMSY. Further, under PMMSY, construction of 3627 hectares of high density-aquaculture freshwater biofloc ponds and 142 hectares of brackishwater biofloc ponds has been established at a total outlay of Rs. 599.68 crore.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

12. FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (FIDF)

The Committee have been informed that certain Activities/Projects undertaken under Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) such as Aquaculture, Fishing Harbours, Fish Landing Centres, Cold Storages, pre-harvest services and post-harvest Infrastructure are labour intensive activities and in turn generate a lot of direct and indirect employment opportunities. The Committee have also been informed that the sanction rate under FIDF is low since most of the Projects that have been approved are Big Projects and further the participation of private sector in FIDF Scheme is less because only interest subvention was provided to them. The Committee acknowledges that FIDF is a demand driven Scheme, however, at the same time, The Committee also understand that the Projects that are been funded under FIDF play a vital role in generating employment, be it direct or indirect. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Department should take effective measures so as to encourage participation of private players from all the States/UTs in the FIDF Scheme in setting up of Projects, which would, in turn, boost both the employment and revenue generation. The Department, therefore, should also take measures to ease out the process of sanctioning approval to such Projects.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has approved proposal for extension of Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for another period of 3 years from 1.4.2023 to 31.3.2026 within the already approved fund size of Rs 7522.48 crore and budgetary support of Rs. 939.48 crore.

FIDF provides credit guarantee facility to the projects of entrepreneurs, individual farmers, and cooperatives from the existing credit guarantee fund of Infrastructure Development Fund of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Further, the extension of FIDF for a further period of three years will leverage the financial resources, encourages more investments in development of infrastructure for fisheries

and aquaculture both from the public and private sector, thereby promoting economic development and expansion of fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

13. POST-HARVEST INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee note that currently the Post-Harvest Losses (PHL) in Fisheries Sector are reported to be 20-25% and one of the Objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is to bring down these losses to 10% by the year 2024-25. However, the Department has not undertaken any comprehensive study in the last five years to assess the Percentage of PHL in Fisheries Sector and therefore the Committee recommend that the Department should undertake a comprehensive study to compute these losses and find ways to decrease these losses by strengthening the infrastructure of Fishing Harbors and Fish Landing Centres and also by modernising them.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has recently entrusted a study on “Assessment of Post-Harvest Losses in Inland and Marine Fisheries in India and to suggest measures to minimize the losses” to National Productivity Council (under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India) and after completion of the study, the suggestions/measures shall be considered for further deliberations and implementation. The comprehensive study on post-harvest loss (PHL) in the fisheries sector involves the participation and contribution of different stakeholders including other Central Ministries/Autonomous

In addition, the department is taking up the matter with concerned stakeholders for reduction in PHL by strengthening the infrastructure of Fishing Harbors and Fish Landing Centres and also by modernizing them in various States/UTs under PMMSY. In this regard, to provide safe landing, berthing & post-harvest infrastructure facilities so far 54 projects worth Rs.2610 crore have been approved for development and

modernization of fishing harbours and fish landing centres in the country. Besides, 587 Ice plants/cold storages, 362 Refrigerated vehicles and 1304 insulated vehicles of total project cost of Rs. 816.30 crore have been supported for fish preservation and transport to reduce the post-harvest losses in fisheries sector. In addition, under FIDF, 22 nos. of fishing harbours and 24 nos. of fish landing centre projects have been approved at a total cost of Rs.4905.77 crore and Rs.182.20 crore respectively. Moreover, PMMSY also supports for strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure including cold chain for reduction of post-harvest losses. The activities supported under PMMSY include construction of cold storages & Ice plants, cold chain facilities including transport vehicles including refrigerated and insulated vehicles, ice flaking and ice crushing units, ice/fish holding boxes, etc, wholesale fish market, retail markets, fish kiosks. Besides, the scheme also supports for construction of Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

14. IMPORT IN FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee have been informed that there are certain fish varieties such as *Haddock, Cod, Flat-Fish, Salmon, Pallock, Argentinean Red Shrimp, Norway Lobster* which are found only in Temperate countries and certain varieties are being imported for supply to Hotel, Restaurants and Cafes and as such imports of these Fish varieties cannot be avoided. The Committee have also been informed that *L. Vannamei* Shrimp constitutes almost 90 to 95 percent of our exports, however, the Mother Stock of *L. Vannamei* Shrimp is imported. In this regard, the Committee recommend that urgent necessary action be taken to produce Mother Stock of *L. Vannamei* Shrimp in the Country thereby reducing the import dependency. The Committee further note that to reduce this single species dependency on *L. Vannamei* and species diversification two options are available i.e. *P. Modonon* and *P. Indicus* and accordingly recommend that the Department should make sure that the Genetic improvement Program by the Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA) for development of *P. Indicus* (an indigenous Shrimp) and the Nucleus Breeding Centre (NBC) Project of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) located at Andaman and Nicobar Islands for

development of *P. Monodon* are fast tracked and completed in a time bound manner so that the Country moves up the ladder in achieving self-sufficiency by reducing import of Shrimp Brood Stocks and thereby living true to the spirit of the *AtmaNirbhar Bharat*.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fisheries, Gol has approved the project proposal of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) entitled "Development of Indigenous Shrimp (Indian white shrimp) Aquaculture: Genetic Improvement Program of *Penaeus indicus*, Phase-I" with a total project cost of Rs. 2504.40 lakh under central sector component of PMMSY. In addition, Department, is supporting NBC project of MPEDA-RGCA Andaman and Nicobar Island on Domestication of Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*). In this regard, Department has approved (i) Establishment of Shrimp Evaluation Study Unit (ESU) for *P. monodon* to evaluate the reproductive and growth performance of founder families of DTSP at Rajakkamangalam, Kanyakumari District" with a total project cost of Rs. 6.75 crore and (ii) Establishment of Pilot Scale BMC for *P. monodon* (Conversion of *L. vannamei* BMC to *P. monodon* BMC) at a cost of Rs 5.32 crore. The Department is closely monitoring the progress of all these projects to ensure their timely completion and to maximize the benefits for shrimp farmers and the overall aquaculture sector.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.16 of Chapter I of this Report.

15. EXPORTS IN FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee understand that to achieve the export target set under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) that is to double the export earnings to Rs. 1 lakh Crores by the year 2024-25, interventions in areas such as Shrimp productivity, post-harvest infrastructure, improving certification and traceability and awareness of quality products are required. The Committee appreciates the efforts taken by the Department for diversification of aquaculture species and Tilapia Fish in

particular so as to increase its export by funding Tilapia Hatcheries and Tilapia Culture through Recirculation Aquaculture System (RAS), Cage culture and Pond Culture. Further, MPEDA- Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture has also standardised the Hatchery and grow out farming technology of Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT). In this regard, the Committee recommend that similar efforts and technological hand holding should be accorded to other Inland Fresh Water commercially important Fish varieties such as Rohu, Catla, Magur, Vaam and Hilsa so that they contribute in achieving the targets set under the PMMSY. The Committee note that Disease Management and Certification and Traceability are very important areas where intervention is needed so as to increase the export competitiveness of the Fisheries Sector and thus, a mechanism should be put in place which would make the Fish Farmers aware of the contents of the Aquaculture Inputs such as production booster used by them. The Committee also recommend that the issues pertaining to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT), which are hampering the exports to various countries need be addressed in a concrete manner and the Department should strive hard to overcome these issues.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana being implemented with effect from 2020-21 intends to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernization and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare. Under the PMMSY, aquaculture is one of the prominent activities for enhancing fish production. PMMSY also focuses on expansion, diversification and intensification of aquaculture including productive utilization of land and water, supply of quality and affordable seed and feed, species diversification and genetic improvement, aquatic health management, infusion of modern technologies such as Re-circulatory Aquaculture Systems, Biofloc, cage culture, pen culture, sea ranching, artificial reefs, mariculture including open sea cage culture etc. PMMSY *inter-alia* provides financial support for post-harvest facilities, fish transport, value addition & marketing to improve value realization to fishers, construction of ponds, tanks, hatcheries and necessary inputs for undertaking fish farming, and development of fisheries infrastructure, cold chain facilities, fish market infrastructure and such other activities to improve price realization.

In regard to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT), as per the legal and trade policies, importing countries enforce various regulatory measures to ensure the safety and quality of the products placed in their markets. The range and stringency of the requirements, including prior registration, testing and certification may differ from one country to another, depending on their developmental status as well as status of their regulatory structures. These measures apply equally to both domestic manufacturers and the importers. However, such measures may sometimes act as trade barriers due to various reasons such as gap in the regulatory frameworks and quality compliance requirements of the trade partners, lack of transparency, arbitrariness or differing interpretation of the rules, improper implementation etc.

It is pertinent to mention that taking cognizance of the challenges involved in mapping the trade barriers, and to give increased focus, a task force has been setup under Department of Commerce, to identify, categorize and develop tailored strategies for resolution of these identified non-tariff barriers. Further, the Export Promotion councils, dedicated commodity and territorial divisions within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, also constantly monitor and keep track of the emerging trade barriers and work with stakeholders, through bilateral institutional mechanisms to resolve measures that unnecessarily restrict trade. Department of Fisheries, Govt regularly discuss the non-tariff barriers under available institutional frameworks with Department of Commerce. Further, in some Free Trade Agreements, specific provisions are available for regulatory cooperation and expediting regulatory approvals including through Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). The resolution of trade barriers including ensuring increased and effective market access is a continuous process and endeavor. Department of Fisheries also engages in regulatory cooperation to help ensure that global rules governing the regulatory structures are favorable and consistent.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.19 of Chapter I of this Report.

16. Kisan Credit Card

The Committee note that the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility was extended to Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Farmers in 2018-19 to help them meet their Working Capital needs. The Rate of Interest on the Loans under KCC is presently 7% and 3% subvention is given by the Central Government in case of timely repayment by the Farmers. However, some States are also giving another 4% Subvention/Rebate from their own account to make the real rate of interest to Zero for the Farmers. The Committee appreciate that separate Working Capital and Term Loan Targets for KCC have been accorded to the Fisheries Sector by the Department of Financial Services so as to improve the credit flow into the Sector. The Committee further note that a large number of applications from Fishers Sector for KCC remain pending in many States/UTs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that KCC be issued to all eligible persons without delay. The Committee also recommend that the Department should coordinate with all the States/UTs so as to explore the possibility of providing Interest Free Loans to Farmers under KCC as has been done by some States by extending another 4 Percent of Interest Subvention/Rebate over and above the 3 Percent available, so that the interest rate under KCC becomes zero.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, has been streamlining the process of credit delivery through KCC to animal husbandry and fisheries farmers, by issuing the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) / Guidelines for the issue of separate KCC for animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries farmers to all banks on 24.09.2021. Thereafter, DFS, vide letter dated 28.04.2023 and email dated 24.08.2023 has advised all banks and SLBCs respectively, to dispose of all the pending applications for the fisheries sector. The DFS, along with the Department of Fisheries, is reviewing from time to time the progress of the KCC facility for fish farmers through nation-wide campaigns and other modes of outreach for optimum saturation of the Kisan Credit Card scheme.

The Committee's recommendation for exploring the possibility of providing interest-free loans to farmers under KCC has been taken up with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, M/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, which has introduced and runs the KCC Scheme.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.22 of Chapter I of this Report.

17. REVENUE EARNING POTENTIAL OF FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee note that Inland Fisheries Sector is by and large, fully in the domain of State Governments, while Marine Sector is a shared responsibility between the Central and Coastal State Governments. According to Department of Fisheries, States will develop comprehensive Leasing and Licensing Policy for all Public Water Bodies by balancing competing objectives of resource development, livelihoods, welfare and revenue generation, etc. , with due priority to local fishing communities and other stakeholders while respective agencies may continue to retain trusteeship/custodial rights of these resources. The State wise details regarding revenue generation through fisheries are not readily available. However, the Government has taken various steps to boost the Revenue Earning potential of the Fisheries Sector through steps taken for increasing fish production and productivity, reduction in post-harvest loses, disease management and risk reduction, establishment of artificial reefs, river/sea ranching and stocking of rivers and reservoirs. The Fisheries Sector, which has been key in stimulating growth for both of Fisheries and Allied Sectors thereby directly and indirectly, contributes to the National GVA. A large section of people of the country are getting their livelihood and employment from Fisheries Sector. Moreover, Fisheries Sector has now emerged as a sunrise sector and Fish and Fisheries Products are among the most traded food commodities in the World. As such, this Sector possesses huge potential to contribute the much required revenues to the Government at different levels. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend for taking all necessary steps for the growth and development of Fisheries Sector of the country. The Committee in particular recommend that the potential areas in Fisheries Sector of each State/UT be clearly identified and they should be duly encouraged and incentivized to ensure more capital investments and optimal utilization of Fisheries Resources in a Target-oriented manner and fixed time frame.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Government has committed a historic investment of Rs. 38,572 Crore since 2014 in the stepwise manner under different schemes to propel the growth and development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Launched in 2020, the PMMSY with the total investment of Rs. 20,050 Crore set an ambitious target of increasing the production to 22 million MT, doubling the export earning potential to 1 lakh Crore and generation of about 15 lakhs direct gainful employment opportunities and thrice the number as indirect employment opportunities along the supply and value chain by 2024-25. PMMSY adopted a state-specific approach, allocating designated investments and setting targeted production goals for each state over a five-year period.

The Government is focusing on the technology infusion in the sector by promoting RAS, Biofloc, Reservoir Cage Culture and Open Sea Cage Culture and has invested Rs. 2936.30 Crore under PMMSY as on date. These technologies are helping to harness the potential of available resources in the states, which is leading to increased revenue generation.

The Government recognizes importance of FFPOs and Cooperatives in the development of the sector and boosting the revenue generation in the fisheries sector. Thus, Government supports the formation and capacity building of FFPOs and Cooperatives. The Government has sanctioned 544.85 Cr for the formation of FFPOs. In order to convert the waste land to wealth land, the Government brought 2855.59 Ha of pond area under saline-alkaline aquaculture while 1,380.86 Ha of pond area under brackish water aquaculture with a support from PMMSY.

India's diverse geography fosters varied fisheries activities across its states. Several states have emerged as leaders in adopting various practices to augment fisheries revenue, each with its own focus. Investment in various activities under PMMSY and the leading state under each category is as under:

Sr. No	Activity under PMMSY	Investment under PMMSY (Rs. in Crore)	Leading States
1	RAS	888.34	Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh
2	Biofloc	475.48	Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Haryana

3	Reservoir Cage Culture	1496.59	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha
4	Open Sea Cage Culture	75.90	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra
5	Deep Sea Fishing	555.60	Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra
6	Ponds for Saline-Alkaline Aquaculture	201.53	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
7	Ponds and Hatcheries for Brackish water Aquaculture	109.51	Odisha, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh
8	Ponds, hatcheries, raceways and RAS for Cold Water fisheries	608.92	Himalayan and North-Eastern States
9	Bivalve Cultivation Units	2.98	Kerala, Karnataka, and Assam
10	Ornamental Fish Breeding and Rearing Units	129.70	Kerala, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Tamil Nadu
11	Seaweed Culture units	82.83	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu

Moreover, newly launched PM-MKSSY, a sub-scheme of PMMSY with an investment of Rs. 6,000 Crore will support 6.4 lakh micro-enterprises and 5,500 fisheries cooperatives, providing access to institutional credit and will incentivize fisheries and aquaculture microenterprises through performance grants for improving fisheries sector value-chain efficiencies including creation and maintenance of jobs.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

18. EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee note that the Fisheries Sector of the country is a fast-growing sector in India, which besides providing income and employment to more than 2.80 Crore people also provides nutrition and food security to a large population of the country. It is also growing as one of the important foreign exchange earner for the

country. The contribution of Fisheries Sector to Gross Value Added (GVA) at constant prices in 2022-23 has been estimated at Rs.1,37,716 crore. Jobs in this Sector range from production and sale of inputs to fishing, fish-farming, harvesting, processing, marketing and distribution of fish. Fishing and aquaculture operations can be informal and small-scale as well as highly organized and industrial in nature. Estimation of employment potential in Fisheries Sector quantitative terms is reportedly a complex task, as fish is a natural resource and its availability, demand and price realization is also highly dependent on multiple compounding factors such as environment market dynamics, climate change, changes in productivity, various regulations, quota-based regime or a fusion of both etc. However, in the last five years, the total employment generation under all Schemes of the Department is reportedly 26,99,320.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, (PMMSY), total project cost worth of Rs 11,029.34 Crore have been approved and a total Investment of Rs.9866.67 Crore has been made since inception of the Scheme for various fisheries developmental activities with a view to generate nearly 7,64,380 direct employment in Fisheries Sector. The Department plans to achieve an ambitious employment generation target of 55 Lakh by the year 2024-25 under PMMSY. The Committee appreciates the achievements made by the Department in the implementation of its various Schemes and Programmes, which has resulted in generation of a substantial number of employment in the Fisheries Sector. The Committee at the same time hold the view that the full potential of the Fisheries Sector yet remains to be realized in the Country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that investments in Fisheries Sector, especially in the areas having the potential for enhancement of export, Post-harvest processing and import substitution, be increased to optimally utilize the resources available in this sector as it will bring about the necessary employment generation in this Sector. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this matter.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Government of India recognizes the importance of investment in activities that have the potential to enhance export, post-harvest processing, and import substitution. These activities are seen as a way to further give impetus to the overall growth and development of the fisheries sector.

The Government has approved projects worth Rs. 18721.03 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) till now. These projects have led to the creation of a total of 45,59,317 employment opportunities, out of which 11,46,219 are direct employment opportunities. As the government continues to make progress in production and value chain related activities year on year, further employment generation is expected to boost the sector.

In order to enhance export and post-harvest processing, the government has invested in potential fisheries activities under the PMMSY as under below. These activities are expected to increase employment generation in the sector.

Sr. No.	Activity	Total Investment (Rs. In Lakhs)	Gol Share (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	Value Added Enterprises	5420.88	2185.68
2	Cold Storages and Ice Plants	46422.00	15700.48
3	Fish Transportation Facilities	68975.20	22087.27
4	Deep Sea Fishing Vessels	55560.00	15772.80
5	Up gradation of existing fishing vessels for export Competency	16874.63	4662.98
6	Providing boats (replacement) and nets for traditional fishermen	24327.90	7136.69
7	Integrated Aquaparks	50278.04	31597.14

The above investment has led to increase the level of seafood and processed food production. As a result, India exported 17,35,286 MT of seafood worth Rs.63,969.14 Crore during the year 2022-23. This is the highest ever export in terms of both volume and value. Frozen shrimp continues to be the major item of export in terms of quantity and value. It accounted for a share of 40.98% in quantity and 67.72% of the total USD earnings during the year 2022-23. India is the world's leading producer of cultured shrimp. The government's focus on area expansion under shrimp farming has led to an increase in shrimp production from 3.22 lakh tonnes in 2013-14 to approximately 11.84 lakh tonnes in 2022-23, an impressive growth of 270%. This has also led to an increase in export earnings from the fisheries sector.

India mainly imports feed ingredients, brood, seed, and processed products. In order to reduce import dependence and make India self-sufficient, the Government has taken a number of initiatives. These initiatives include initiating 6 Genetic Improvement Programs, establishing one Nucleus Breeding Centre, 24 Brood Bank facilities and

Brood Multiplication Centres. Additionally, 108 value-added enterprises have been supported to reduce import dependence on processed products. The government is also focused on promotion of seaweed cultivation in order to reduce its import dependency. The establishment of these infrastructures and the further ensuring of an effective network and distribution system will help to make India self-reliant in seed, feed, and processed food.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

CHAPTER – III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

3. DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS

The Committee note that the Department of Fisheries has formulated a plan for inclusion of “Promotion of sustainable fisheries and livelihoods through Artificial Reefs and Sea Ranching” as a sub activity under the “Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages” (IMCFV) to rebuild fish stocks and promote sustainability in inshore/coastal fisheries and protect the livelihood of dependent fisher folks. However, it is observed that only from the States of Tamil Nadu and Odisha, Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been received for setting up of Artificial Reefs in the fishing villages, which are selected for proposed development of Artificial Reefs under PMMSY. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should take necessary measures and see that proposals are received from all the States for development of Artificial Reefs.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

During Financial Year- 2022-23 under Pradhan Mantri Matsya SampadaYojana (PMMSY) this Department introduced Artificial Reefs activity, to help in rebuilding of fish stocks and to promote sustainability in inshore/coastal fisheries. Artificial reefs are man-made or natural objects placed in selected areas of the marine environment to provide or improve solid and rough bottom habitat and thereby increase the productivity and harvest ability of certain fish valuable to fishers. As on date this Department has sanctioned establishment of 720 units of Artificial reef proposals from 11 Coastal States and Union Territories at a total outlay of Rs. 224.10 crore. State-wise list of artificial reefs sanctioned under PMMSY till date are as under:

Sl.N	Name of the States	Total of as on date		
		Rs. In Lakhs		
		Physical (No.)	Proj. Cost	Gol Share
1	Andhra Pradesh	22.00	770.00	462.00
2	Goa	14.00	434.00	260.40
3	Gujarat	25.00	775.00	465.00

4	Karnataka	56.00	1736.00	1041.60
5	Kerala	42.00	1302.00	781.20
6	Lakshadweep	2.00	64.50	64.50
7	Odisha	93.00	2883.00	1729.80
8	Maharashtra	182.00	5642.00	3385.20
9	Puducherry	14.00	434.00	434.00
10	Tamil Nadu	200.00	6200.00	2480.00
11	West Bengal	70.00	2170.00	1302.00
Total		720.00	22410.50	12405.70

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024

CHAPTER – IV

**OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE**

-NIL-

CHAPTER - V

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

6. NEED FOR A SEPARATE RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee are happy to note that India has rich and diverse fisheries resources ranging from deep seas to lakes, ponds, rivers and more than 10 Percent of the global biodiversity in terms of fish and shellfish species. Acknowledging the potential of Fisheries Sector of the country, the Government of India created a separate Department of Fisheries in February, 2019 to supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories and to provide sustained and focussed attention towards development of Fisheries Sector of the country. The Fisheries Sector contributes around 6.72% to Agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) and 1.24 to National GVA in 2021-22 and is a major employment generator in direct as well as allied fishery activities. The Fisheries Sector of the country possesses a huge untapped potential. At present, the national level research activities in Fisheries Sector are undertaken under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Committee, taking into account these factors, recommend that a separate Research Council for Fishery Sector namely Indian Council for Fishery and Aquaculture Research under the Department of Fisheries be constituted as it would not only facilitate focussed and in-depth research in the Sector but also address the challenges faced by the Sector.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

At present, there is no proposal to establish a separate Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Council. However, upon creation of a new Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, a Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr SanjivBalyan, Hon'ble MoS for Fisheries, Animal husbandry and dairying to recommend setting up of a Research Council to address research in fisheries and veterinary science.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.7 of Chapter I of this Report.

8. INSURANCE SCHEME FOR DAM FISHERS

The Committee note that the Department of Fisheries, through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is implementing Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) for Fishers under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana since 26.07.2021. Fishers involved in fishing at reservoirs/dams are also eligible to insure their lives against heavy rainfall/ natural disaster under this Scheme through the respective State Fisheries Departments/Union Territories. With regard to Dam Fishers, the Committee have been apprised that during heavy rainfall when the gates of the Dams are opened, the seeds planted by the Fishers in these Dams also gets washed away causing heavy losses to them and therefore recommend that the Department should design a Scheme for Dam Fishers, similar to crop insurance given under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to extend them insurance coverage against losses during heavy rainfall. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department has launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Krishi Sah-Samridhi Yojana (PM-MKSSY) a central sector sub-scheme under the ongoing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at a total outlay of Rs. 6000 crores for a period of four years from 2023-24 to 2026-27 wherein provision has been made for insurance of intensive form of aquaculture which also includes cage culture for fishers among others with a maximum unit size eligible to 1800m². At present the various guidelines including for crop aquaculture insurance for implementation of the scheme are being prepared and shall be launched shortly.

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Fisheries)
F. No. J-23011/4/2023-Fy (Coord) (E-23114) dated 7th May, 2024**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.13 of Chapter I of this Report.

**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 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) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;
- (ii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;
- (iii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;
- (iv) Draft Action Taken Report on Action Taken by the Government on Observations/Recommendations contained in the 70th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Employment Generation and Revenue Earning Potential of Fisheries Sector' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries)

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.

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE SEVENTIETH REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2023-24)
(17TH LOK SABHA)**

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	18
(ii)	Observations/ Recommendations that have been Accepted by the Government Para Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12,13,14,15,16,17,18 Total	15
	Percentage	83.33%
(iii)	Observations/ Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Para No. 3 Total	01
	Percentage	5.56%
(iv)	Observations/ Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Para No. 0 Total	00
	Percentage	00.00%
(v)	Observations/ Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited Para Nos. 6, 8 Total	02
	Percentage	11.11%