

**Regarding need to undertake extensive awareness campaigns and training programmes to promote sustainable aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh-Laid**

**SHRI G. M. HARISH BALAYOGI (AMALAPURAM):** Andhra Pradesh holds a dominant position in India's aquaculture industry, accounting for 72% of the country's shrimp production while utilizing 64% of the designated land. Spanning over nearly 4 lakh acres, the state recorded marine product exports worth Rs. 24,523 crores in 2023-24. However, rapid expansion of aquaculture farming has led to severe environmental and social consequences. Groundwater contamination from these farms has resulted in soil degradation, declining agricultural productivity, and health hazards, including skin allergies. Violations of environmental regulations further exacerbate these challenges, as aquaculture farming is frequently conducted illegally in non-aquaculture zones. The unauthorized conversion of agricultural land into aquaculture ponds has led to long-term ecological damage and significant disruptions to livelihoods. In Konaseema district, over 400 aquaculture farms have been ordered to be demolished following directives from the NGT due to violations of CRZ regulations. This enforcement has triggered community conflicts, as aquaculture farming remains a highly attractive livelihood. The primary cause is lack of awareness regarding regulatory requirements, and proper wastewater management. Without adequate knowledge, farmers face legal repercussions and financial losses. Therefore, it is imperative that the Ministry implements extensive awareness campaigns and training initiatives to promote responsible and sustainable aquaculture practices.