

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 274
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2025

Illegal Fish Farming

274. Shri Captain Viriato Fernandes:

Will the Minister of **FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of illegal fish-farming breaching bunds and flooding over 13,000 hectare of Khazan lands in Goa and the time by which the Government proposes to activate the Khazan Board, secure restoration funds, and prosecute offenders;
- (b) whether the Government has ordered independent audits of Water Resources Department and Agriculture works to recover cost overruns, and complete bundh restoration within six months despite Rs. 2.5 cr. in Ponda and Rs. 9.2 cr. in Neura for repairs, faulty work, devastating farmers;
- (c) whether 60–70% of Khazan bundhs which are in poor condition and whether the Centre proposes to launch a 10,000 hectare Khazan Rehabilitation Mission through NITI Aayog/NMNA to repair sluice gates, desilt fields, and revive traditional water systems if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of present Khazan ecosystems' role in biodiversity, flood control, and saline resistant agriculture; and
- (e) whether the Government would integrate their conservation into CRZ/Coastal Mission funding and support youth-led co-ops and capacity-building and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)**

(a): Department of Fisheries, Government of Goa has informed that the subject matter of Khazan lands and its related management comes under the Departments of Environment & Climate Change, Agriculture, and Revenue in the State and that there are no such details of illegal fish farming breaching bunds and flooding into Khazan lands have been reported. It is further informed that notifying the formation of Khazan Board comes under the purview of Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Goa.

(b): The Government of Goa has informed that no such independent audit has been ordered for the works undertaken by the Agriculture Department and as far as Khazan bunds works in Ponda and Neura the expenditure incurred on these works is within the limits of the approved expenditure sanction and both bunds are currently in stable condition.

(c): NITI Aayog has informed that there is no such proposals under consideration.

(d) and (e): Khazan ecosystems play significant role in biodiversity and as informed by Government of Goa that their conservation and management comes under the purview of various Departments at the State level. Currently there is no such proposal for integrating their conservation into CRZ/Coastal Mission funding. However, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) implemented by Department of Fisheries, Government of India (DoF, GoI), financial assistance is provided to various fisheries activities including fish/shrimp farming. The scheme is under implementation in all States/UTs including Goa. During last 5 years under PMMSY the DoF, GoI has approved fisheries developmental projects worth Rs. 116.85 crore in the State of Goa, which also included fish farming activities. The approved activities envisage significant employment generation, capacity-building and holistic development of fisheries and aquaculture in Goa State.
