

26

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

(2025-2026)

EIGHTEENTH LOKSABHA

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

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)'

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2025-26)]

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT



**LOKSABHASECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

DECEMBER, 2025/AGRAHAYANA, 1947(SAKA)

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*Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2025
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2025*



**LOKSABHASECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

DECEMBER, 2025/AGRAHAYANA, 1947(SAKA)

COA No. 525

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Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Seventeenth Edition) and Printed by Lok Sabha Secretariat

CONTENTS

		PAGE
Composition of the Committee (2024-25)		iii
Composition of the Committee (2025-26)		iv
Introduction		vi
Chapter I	Report	1
Chapter II	Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government	15
Chapter III	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	25
Chapter IV	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	26
Chapter V	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	31

ANNEXURE

Minutes of the 37 th sitting of the Committee held on 19.09.2025	32
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APPENDIX

Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (18 th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2025-26)	35
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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING
(2024-25)**

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
4. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
5. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
6. Shri 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 Satu Rane
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 Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
23. Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha*
24. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
25. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
26. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
27. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
28. Shri Madan Rathore
29. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
30. Shri P. P. Suneer
31. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala

Shri Krishan Lal Panwar, Member resigned from Rajya Sabha on 14.10.2024.

*Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Member, Rajya Sabha has been nominated to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing w.e.f on 8th August 2025, vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, Para No. 3117 dated 13.08.2025.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING
(2025-26)**

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26. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
27. Shri Madan Rathore
28. Shri S. R. Sivalingam
29. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
30. Shri P. P. Suneer
31. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri Dhiraj Kumar	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Maheshwar	-	Director
3.	Shri Ashwaghosh B. Lokhande	-	Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2025-26), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Sixth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries).

2. The Tenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) 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 19.03.2025. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 25.06.2025.
3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 19th September, 2025.
4. An Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2025-26) is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;

15 December, 2025
24 Agrahayana, 1947 (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 Tenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) 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 19th March, 2025.

1.2 The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 10 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.2,3,5,6,7,8 and 10

Total 07
Chapter-II

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

Recommendation Para No. Nil

Total 00
Chapter-III

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Para Nos. 1,4 and 9

Total 03
Chapter-IV

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Total 00
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 further Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in **Chapter-I** 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.

UNDER UTILISATION OF ALLOCATED FUNDS AND INCREASING SHORTFALL (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 1)

1.5 The Committee had observed/recommended:

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

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

by the State Governments and non-receipt of physical and financial progress (utilization certificates) on time from States/UTs and other stakeholders.

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

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

“The observation of the committee has been noted for necessary compliance. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide OM No.1(27)/PFMS/2020 dated 13th July 2023 has notified an alternative fund flow mechanism for releasing central funds to the State Governments on “Just-in-Time” basis under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). This new system has been named as SNA-SPARSH wherein 28 schemes including PMMSY have been on boarded with effect from 1st June, 2024. Under this new system, 28 States have been on-boarding on the SNA SPARSH platform. Lack of understanding by the states to adhere to the compliances of SNA-SPARSH, transition phase between SNA and SNA-SPARSH made the process slow for the States to adopt the new procedure and Non- compliance of the Guidelines in time by the States are few of the major point for slow expenditure. The Department has been working in close coordination with the States and these

issues have been addressed from time to time. As such, better performance in the upcoming days is expected.”

1.7 The Committee, were concerned with the Department's inability to completely utilize the allocated budget, which in turn affected the implementation and outcomes of the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and expenditure under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan (STSP). The Committee, had therefore recommended that, the Department may explore the possibility of devising an incentive scheme for State/UT governments, particularly for those States/UTs which promptly comply with the SNA-SPARSH guidelines and to release their state matching share in time along with Utilisation Certificates and whose performance in implementing the schemes of the Department and spending under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan (STSP) is substantial. The Department, in their reply, has not provided specific inputs on the possibility of devising an incentive scheme, as recommended by the Committee, or on its potential role in improving the utilization of the allocated budget under SCSP and STSP. The Committee, therefore, reiterate its recommendation and encourage the Department to consider formulating such a scheme.

SCHEDULED CASTES SUB PLAN (SCSP)

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 4)

1.8 The Committee had observed/recommended:

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

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

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

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

1.9 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted:

“The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has consistently highlighted the matter in all review meetings with States/UTs having a sizeable Scheduled Caste beneficiary population. The States/UTs also been advised to ensure that minimum 16.6% of the Schedule Caste beneficiaries are included

for financial assistance in PMMSY project proposals while preparing the state annual action plan. Further, the measures taken up by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India in this regard include: (i) Mandatory earmarking of minimum 16.6% of the budget allocated under Schedule Cast Sub-Plan (SCSP) for the benefits of scheduled caste beneficiaries and advising States/UTs to include SC/ST beneficiaries accordingly in their annual action plans. Specific mention has been made in the annual administrative approval of the Scheme, in accordance with the Ministry of Finance's instructions, that the funds earmarked for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries are to be utilized exclusively for their development (ii) Requesting the End Implementing Agencies i.e. Central Government entities including the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to include suitable interventions/activities for supporting SC population appropriately in their respective Annual Action Plan or Project Proposals. Similarly, State Governments and Union Territories are regularly requested to make specific allocations for Scheduled Castes in their Annual Action Plans, self-contained proposals, and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), based on the percentage of the SC population within their jurisdiction.”

1.10 The Committee were concerned about the decreasing actual expenditure of funds under SCSP component of PMMSY from the financial years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and further inferred that the efforts taken by the Department are not materializing in increasing actual expenditure under SCSP. The Committee, therefore had recommended that the Department may analyze the reasons for non-receipt of the proposals from the state Governments and initiate suitable action including review of features, terms & conditions, eligibility criteria, etc. and ensure the receipt of proposals from the state/ UT Governments. The Department, however, has not answered on this specific recommendation of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the Department may explore the possibility of reviewing the features, terms and

conditions and eligibility criteria etc. under SCSP to ensure maximum participation and optimal utilization of funds under SCSP.

DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE RESILIENT FISHERMEN VILLAGES AROUND RIVERS

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 6)

1.11 The Committee had observed/recommended:

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

The Committee note that the country has a vast potential in Inland fisheries comprising of 0.28 million km of rivers and canals, 1.2 million ha flood plain lakes, 2.45 million ha of ponds and tanks and 3.15 million ha of reservoirs, which contributes around 13.9 MMT to total fish production. Most of the traditional fishing communities who lack socio-economic stability reside around these vast rivers and lakes. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should devise a scheme for these traditional fishermen communities who reside alongside rivers and explore the possibility of development of their villages into climate resilient fishermen villages in consultation with States/UTs. The committee would like to be apprised of the measures taken by the Department in this regard.

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

“The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) *inter-alia* provides support to the Coastal States/UTs for development of Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages. Under PMMSY, the proposals with total outlay of Rs.7756.46 lakh for development of total 11 integrated modern coastal villages have been approved which include (i) nine coastal villages at a cost of Rs. 6106.61 lakh in Kerala, (ii) one Coastal village at a cost of Rs.899.85 lakh in Lakshadweep and (iii) one coastal village at a cost of Rs. 750 lakh in West Bengal. In addition, under the PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, in consultation with the coastal States/UTs has also identified 100 coastal fishermen villages situated close to the coastline for development as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) to make them economically vibrant fishermen villages. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad has been made a nodal agency and the proposal for development of the identified 100 coastal villages at a total cost of Rs. 200 crore has been approved under the PMMSY. As per PMMSY scheme guidelines, both the components i.e. Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages and Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages are implemented in coastal States and Union Territories only, hence, no projects have been sanctioned under these components to inland States. The PMMSY scheme has completed its schematic tenure on 31.03.2025 and one year no cost extension has been approved by the Government. The scheme is currently under evaluation. Based on the outcomes of this evaluation, the proposal for the inclusion of Climate-Resilient Fishermen Villages around rivers will be examined and considered for inclusion in the subsequent scheme.”

1.13 The Committee had recommended that the Department of Fisheries should devise a scheme for traditional fishermen communities who reside alongside rivers and explore the possibility of development of their villages into climate resilient fishermen villages in consultation with States/UTs. The Department in their reply have stated that PMMSY scheme has completed its

schematic tenure on 31.03.2025 and thereafter, one year no cost extension has been approved by the Government, however, the scheme is currently under evaluation and based on the outcomes of this evaluation, the proposal of the Committee for the inclusion of Climate-Resilient Fishermen Villages around rivers will be examined and considered for inclusion in the subsequent scheme. The Committee, appreciate the assurance given by the Department, and would further like to be apprised of the result of the said evaluation of the PMMSY Scheme and their recommendation.

ENHANCING THE CORPUS OF ACCIDENTAL LIFE INSURANCE FOR FISHERMEN

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 8)

1.14 The Committee had observed/recommended:

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

The Committee are aware that most of the traditional fishermen/fishers belong to the socioeconomically disadvantaged strata lacking in financial stability and economic resources. Further, traditional fishers who venture into the sea for fishing activities are exposed to higher risks as fishing is one of the most dangerous occupations leading to many injuries and deaths annually due to harsh weather conditions and equipment failure. Any mishappening at sea leading to the loss of primary bread earner subjects the families of fishermen to

severe challenges to sustain their livelihood needs, and jeopardizes the future well-being of their families. Given the rising living costs and inflation, the current insurance cover would be insufficient to cover the basic survival needs, children education and debt repayments of fishermen who lose their lives.

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

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

“The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana implemented by the Department has completed its schematic period on 31.03.2025 and currently under evaluation. Hence, increasing the accidental Insurance cover under GAIS from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh shall be considered based on the outcomes of the evaluation. One online portal in this regard has been developed to submit the claim by the claimant/nominee/ legal heir with 120 days to process the claim settlement on first track basis.”

1.16 The Committee had recommended that the accidental Insurance cover under Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) should be enhanced from Rs. 5 lac to at least Rs. 10 lac so that the families of the deceased fishermen are able to sustain their life with dignity and the financial security of their families is been taken care of. The Committee further recommended that the procedure for claiming insurance should be simplified and measures should be taken to

ensure that the insurance amount is disbursed to the claimants promptly with least paperwork. The Department in their reply have stated that an online portal has been developed to submit the claim by the insurance claimant/nominee/legal heir with 120 days for settlement on first track basis. However, the recommendation of the Committee for increase in accidental insurance cover from Rs 5 lac to Rs 10 lac shall be considered based on the outcomes of evaluation of PMMSY. The Committee strongly believe that the accidental insurance corpus should be enhanced proportionately keeping in view the current economic parameters and inflation and, therefore, appreciate the effort taken by the Department in this regard. The Committee would further like to be apprised of the result of the evaluation and steps taken in this direction.

MATSYA SEVA KENDRA (MSK)

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 9)

1.17 The Committee had observed/recommended:

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

The Committee understand that MSK can play an important role in the overall development of the fisheries sector by increasing awareness amongst fishermen about the modern aquaculture practices, technological interventions

and strengthening capacity building. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should take effective measures and ensure that Matsya Seva Kendra are established in every district of the country which has a sizeable population engaged in fisheries for their livelihood and economic wellbeing. The Department should actively pursue with States/UTs and incentivize them for establishing Matsya Seva Kendra on priority basis.

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

“Establishing Matsya Seva Kendras (MSKs) is an important initiative aimed at strengthening the fisheries sector, especially under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in India. These Kendras function as single-window service centers to support fishers, fish farmers, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders in fisheries and aquaculture. Setting up Matsya Seva Kendras is a pivotal step in making India’s fisheries sector more organized, empowered, and sustainable. These centers can greatly improve fishers’ livelihoods by acting as knowledge and resource hubs, ensuring the holistic growth of the Blue Economy. Under PMMSY 102 numbers of Matsya Seva Kendras has been approved. All the States/UTs are requested in various review meeting to promote such Extension and support services to act as a last-mile delivery mechanism for fishers and fishermen in the country.”

1.19 Acknowledging the importance of Matsya Seva Kendras (MSK) in the overall development of fisheries sector, the Committee had recommended that Matsya Seva Kendra may be established in every district of the country which has a sizeable population engaged in fishing activities for their livelihood needs. The Department in their reply have stated that under PMMSY 102 Matsya Seva Kendras has been approved and all the States/UTs are requested in various review meeting to promote such extension and support services. The Department has not specifically addressed the Committee’s recommendation regarding the establishment of Matsya Seva Kendra in every district with a

sizeable population of fishermen/fish farmers. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and request the Department to apprise them of the measures taken in this regard.

CONTINUATION OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY).

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 10)

1.20 The Committee had observed/recommended:

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

The Committee has been informed that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana has been extended for another one year *i.e.* upto 2025-26, Co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission year cycle, with no budgetary support. However, no decision has been taken on the extension of PMMSY for another five years (2026-27 to FY2030-31). Given the importance of PMMSY in bringing about change in the socioeconomic conditions of the fishers of the country by focusing on sustainable and responsible development and boosting fishery sector's contribution to the national economy and food security, the Committee, reiterate their recommendation that tenure of PMMSY should be extended for another five years *i.e.* up to 2030-31.

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

"For holistic development of Fisheries in the Country, the PMMSY scheme is implemented in all the States/UTs since 2020-21 to 2025-26. Special focus is being given for development of Fisheries in the States/UTs to push to the economic wellbeing of the fishers of the Country in general and also promote inland fisheries as part of Bio-Economy.

Co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission year cycle, no cost extension up to 2025-26 has been approved in principle for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Extension of PMMSY for another five years (2026-27 to FY2030-31) after detailed guidelines issued by DoE with approval of CA/Cabinet.

The PMMSY is under evaluation now. Based on the evaluation report, necessary action shall be initiated for either continuation of the PMMSY or new scheme shall be formed.”

1.22 Given the importance of PMMSY the Committee had reiterated their recommendation that the tenure of PMMSY should be extended for another five years i.e. up to 2030-31. The Department, in their reply have submitted that Extension of PMMSY for another five years (2026-27 to FY2030-31) may be considered after detailed guidelines issued by DoE with the approval of CA/Cabinet. Further, after evaluation report of PMMSY, necessary action shall be initiated for either continuation of the PMMSY or new scheme shall be formulated. The Committee, strongly believe that continuation of PMMSY shall strengthen value addition infrastructure and enhance seafood exports, island fisheries development (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands) and infusion and adoption of cutting-edge technologies to further modernize fisheries sector. The Committee, would therefore, like the Department to apprise the Committee on further developments in the matter.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

2. NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NFDB)

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

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

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

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

"Department of Fisheries in coordination with NFDB has organized various outreach activities to popularize schemes implemented and increasing Domestic fish

consumption through various digital platforms. The said outreach campaigns are taken up to create awareness in rural and urban people. The outreach activities are implemented directly by NFDB in coordination with State Department of Fisheries, KVKS, ICAR institutes and state universities. Various outreach activities such as outdoor campaigns, Digital Campaigns, mass media campaigns, Publicity through electronic media announcement in railways, digital display in airports on priority activities, National level workshops on Seaweed, ornamental fisheries, create awareness on benefits of insurance scheme and door to door campaign on KCC seeking grievances.

Presently regular outreach programs are organized on PMMKSSY, National Fisheries digital Platform, Cluster approach, climate resilience and Demonstration on drone technology & its usefulness across the country for popularization of modern technologies.

The annual action plan of NFDB considered based on the proposal including training, awareness and capacity building received from NFDB. The suggestion of the committee to revise the budget allocation has been noted.”

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

3. ASSISTANCE TO FISHERY INSTITUTES

The Committee note that the RE allocation for Assistance to Fishery Institutes during the FY 2024-25 has been reduced by almost 30%. Further, the Department has not been able to utilize completely the funds allocated during the financial years 2021-22 up to 2024-25. The Committee has been informed that, out of the total funds allocated to Assistance to Fisheries Institutes, more than 76% of the funds are earmarked to two institutes namely Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET) and in addition to the regular establishment expenditure, the expenditure of FSI, CIFNET is the operation and maintenance of its 14 fishery survey and training vessels. However, during the 2024-25 financial year only one-two vessels were in operation.

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

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

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

“Budget Estimate for the year 2025-26 for all the fisheries institutes under the administrative control of Department of Fisheries has been issued. The institutes have been instructed to spend the funds as per the monthly/quarterly expenditure plan issued by Ministry of Finance. Funds have been earmarked for the dry-docking and maintenance of fisheries survey vessels at the respective institutes. The requirement of funds shall be accessed and necessary steps be taken during revised estimate to all the institutes.”

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

5. NATIONAL FISHERIES DIGITAL PLATFORM (NFDP)-PMMKSSY

“The Committee have been informed that National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) aims at formalization of fisheries sector through creation of a database of work based digital identities for all fisheries stakeholders through dedicated portal as well as mobile app. NFDP would serve as a 'one-stop' platform for information and availing

benefits under Pradhan Mantri Matya Kisan Samriddhi Sah Yojana such as performance-based incentives, aquaculture insurance, facilitate institutional credit, claim application for eligible financial incentives and provisions for strengthening of fisheries co-operatives and fisheries' traceability systems.

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

The Committee appreciates the provision of Village Level Entrepreneur assisted registration (CSC VLE) in NFDP, however, at the same time recommends that the Department should also engage gram panchayats at district level and gram sabhas at taluka level in this regard. Further, the Department should also develop a mechanism to monitor the progress of fishers registered under CSC VLE and ensure that enough publicity is accorded for NFDP so that more and more fishers are encouraged to register and take advantage of the intended benefits in NFDP.”

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying is interacting regularly with States/UTs and other stakeholders including Fisheries Cooperatives, SHGs, FFPOs, VLOs, fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors, fish workers etc. in order to create awareness among the stakeholders to register under NFDP and avail the benefits under the PM-MKSSY.

Besides, number of Campaign have been conducted in the States/UTs for more publicity of PM-MKSSY and NFDP. As on date, 25 lakh registration have been done under NFDP portal. The Department of Fisheries is hopeful that, by December, 2025 the registrations would be reached 1 crore in association with States/UTs, Fisheries,

Fish Farmers, Fish Vendors, Fish Workers, Fisheries Cooperatives, SHGs, FFPOs, VLOs etc."

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

6. DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE RESILIENT FISHERMEN VILLAGES AROUND RIVERS.

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

The Committee note that the country has a vast potential in Inland fisheries comprising of 0.28 million km of rivers and canals, 1.2 million ha flood plain lakes, 2.45 million ha of ponds and tanks and 3.15 million ha of reservoirs, which contributes around 13.9 MMT to total fish production. Most of the traditional fishing communities who lack socio-economic stability reside around these vast rivers and lakes. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should devise a scheme for these traditional fishermen communities who reside alongside rivers and explore the possibility of development of their villages into climate resilient fishermen villages in consultation with States/UTs. The committee would like to be apprised of the measures taken by the Department in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

“The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) *inter-alia* provides support to the Coastal States/UTs for development of Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages. Under PMMSY, the proposals with total outlay of Rs.7756.46 lakh for development of total 11 integrated modern coastal villages have been approved which include (i) nine coastal villages at a cost of Rs. 6106.61 lakh in Kerala, (ii) one Coastal village at a cost of Rs.899.85 lakh in Lakshadweep and (iii) one coastal village at a cost of Rs. 750 lakh in West Bengal. In addition, under the PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, in consultation with the coastal States/UTs has also identified 100 coastal fishermen villages situated close to the coastline for development as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) to make them economically vibrant fishermen villages. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad has been made a nodal agency and the proposal for development of the identified 100 coastal villages at a total cost of Rs. 200 crore has been approved under the PMMSY. As per PMMSY scheme guidelines, both the components i.e. Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages and Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages are implemented in coastal States and Union Territories only, hence, no projects have been sanctioned under these components to inland States. The PMMSY scheme has completed its schematic tenure on 31.03.2025 and one year no cost extension has been approved by the Government. The scheme is currently under evaluation. Based on the outcomes of this evaluation, the proposal for the inclusion of Climate-Resilient Fishermen Villages around rivers will be examined and considered for inclusion in the subsequent scheme.”

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

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

7. DEVELOPMENT OF SEAWEED CULTIVATION IN INDIA

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

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

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

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

“Seaweed cultivation is one of the potential area for coastal regions. It is being cultivated in many of the Asian countries at commercial scale. Promotion of seaweed cultivation under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a major initiative by the Government of India to boost coastal aquaculture, enhance fisherfolk incomes, and support blue economy goals.

Among the coastal states, Tamil Nadu & Gujarat are the major producers. The Potential of seaweed production is around 9.7 million tonnes of seaweeds in 384 identified potential sites in the country. Projects worth Rs.196.92 crore has been approved for seaweed cultivation through monoline, tube-net/raft method, R&D and training, including a Multipurpose Seaweed Park project in Tamil Nadu. Recently, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Regional Centre has also been notified by the Government as Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Seaweed Promotion.

Promotion of seaweed cultivation under PMMSY represents a transformative opportunity for India's coastal communities. Targeted investments, technical support, and capacity-building initiatives have also been undertaken to promote a sustainable blue economy, economic empowerment, environmental conservation, and rural development."

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

8. ENHANCING THE CORPUS OF ACCIDENTAL LIFE INSURANCE FOR FISHERMEN.

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

The Committee are aware that most of the traditional fishermen/fishers belong to the socioeconomically disadvantaged strata lacking in financial stability and economic resources. Further, traditional fishers who venture into the sea for fishing activities are exposed to higher risks as fishing is one of the most dangerous occupations leading to many injuries and deaths annually due to harsh weather conditions and equipment failure. Any mishappening at sea leading to the loss of primary bread earner subjects

the families of fishermen to severe challenges to sustain their livelihood needs, and jeopardizes the future well-being of their families. Given the rising living costs and inflation, the current insurance cover would be insufficient to cover the basic survival needs, children education and debt repayments of fishermen who lose their lives.

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

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana implemented by the Department has completed its schematic period on 31.03.2025 and currently under evaluation. Hence, increasing the accidental Insurance cover under GAIS from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh shall be considered based on the outcomes of the evaluation. One online portal in this regard has been developed to submit the claim by the claimant/nominee/ legal heir with 120 days to process the claim settlement on first track basis.

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

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

10. CONTINUATION OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY)

The Committee in their 3rd Report on DFG (2024-25) have recommended that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana may be continued as PMMSY Phase-II for a

period of another five years i.e. from FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30 to focus on the strengthening of value addition infrastructure to enhance seafood exports, island fisheries development (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands) and infusion and adoption of cutting edge technologies to further modernise fisheries sector.

The Committee has been informed that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana has been extended for another one year i.e. upto 2025-26, Co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission year cycle, with no budgetary support. However, no decision has been taken on the extension of PMMSY for another five years (2026-27 to FY2030-31). Given the importance of PMMSY in bringing about change in the socioeconomic conditions of the fishers of the country by focusing on sustainable and responsible development and boosting fishery sector's contribution to the national economy and food security, the Committee, reiterate their recommendation that tenure of PMMSY should be extended for another five years i.e. up to 2030-31.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

For holistic development of Fisheries in the Country, the PMMSY scheme is implemented in all the States/UTs since 2020-21 to 2025-26. Special focus is being given for development of Fisheries in the States/UTs to push to the economic wellbeing of the fishers of the Country in general and also promote inland fisheries as part of Bio-Economy.

Co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission year cycle, no cost extension up to 2025-26 has been approved in principle for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Extension of PMMSY for another five years (2026-27 to FY2030-31) after detailed guidelines issued by DoE with approval of CA/Cabinet.

The PMMSY is under evaluation now. Based on the evaluation report, necessary action shall be initiated for either continuation of the PMMSY or new scheme shall be formed.

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER – III

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

-NIL-

CHAPTER-IV

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

1. UNDERUTILIZATION OF ALLOCATED FUNDS AND INCREASING SHORTFALL

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

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

The Committee are concerned that, the Department is unable to completely utilise the allocated budget and the shortfall of the Department has been increasing continuously. This underutilization of funds is also affecting the implementation and outcomes of the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and expenditure under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan (STSP) which in turn is affecting the goals of uplifting the socio-economic conditions and general well being of the poor and traditional fishermen of the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department may explore the

possibility of devising an incentive scheme for State/UT governments, particularly to those States/UTs who promptly comply with the SNA-SPARSH guidelines, release their state matching share in time along with Utilisation Certificates and whose performance in implementing the schemes of the Department and spending under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan (STSP) is substantial. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department and progress achieved in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:

“The observation of the committee has been noted for necessary compliance. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide OM No.1(27)/PFMS/2020 dated 13th July 2023 has notified an alternative fund flow mechanism for releasing central funds to the State Governments on “Just-in-Time” basis under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). This new system has been named as SNA-SPARSH wherein 28 schemes including PMMSY have been on boarded with effect from 1st June, 2024. Under this new system, 28 States have been on-boarding on the SNA SPARSH platform. Lack of understanding by the states to adhere to the compliances of SNA-SPARSH, transition phase between SNA and SNA-SPARSH made the process slow for the States to adopt the new procedure and Non- compliance of the Guidelines in time by the States are few of the major point for slow expenditure. The Department has been working in close coordination with the States and these issues have been addressed from time to time. As such, better performance in the upcoming days is expected.”

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

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

4. SCHEDULED CASTES SUB PLAN (SCSP)

The Committee in their 3rd Report (DFG 2024-25) at recommendation no 5, expressed serious concern at the declining trend of utilisaztion of funds under SCSP and recommended the Department to analyze the reasons for non-receipt of the proposals from the state Governments and initiate suitable action including review of features, terms & conditions, eligibility criteria, etc and ensure the receipt of proposals from the state/ UT Governments for optimal utilization of the funds under SCSP.

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

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

Reply of the Government:

“The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has consistently highlighted the matter in all review meetings with States/UTs having a sizeable

Scheduled Caste beneficiary population. The States/UTs also been advised to ensure that minimum 16.6% of the Schedule Caste beneficiaries are included for financial assistance in PMMSY project proposals while preparing the state annual action plan. Further, the measures taken up by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India in this regard include: (i) Mandatory earmarking of minimum 16.6% of the budget allocated under Schedule Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) for the benefits of scheduled caste beneficiaries and advising States/UTs to include SC/ST beneficiaries accordingly in their annual action plans. Specific mention has been made in the annual administrative approval of the Scheme, in accordance with the Ministry of Finance's instructions, that the funds earmarked for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries are to be utilized exclusively for their development (ii) Requesting the End Implementing Agencies i.e. Central Government entities including the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to include suitable interventions/activities for supporting SC population appropriately in their respective Annual Action Plan or Project Proposals. Similarly, State Governments and Union Territories are regularly requested to make specific allocations for Scheduled Castes in their Annual Action Plans, self-contained proposals, and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), based on the percentage of the SC population within their jurisdiction.”

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

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

9. MATSYA SEVA KENDRA (MSK)

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

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

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

Reply of the Government:

“Establishing Matsya Seva Kendras (MSKs) is an important initiative aimed at strengthening the fisheries sector, especially under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in India. These Kendras function as single-window service centers to support fishers, fish farmers, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders in fisheries and aquaculture. Setting up Matsya Seva Kendras is a pivotal step in making India’s fisheries sector more organized, empowered, and sustainable. These centers can greatly improve fishers’ livelihoods by acting as knowledge and resource hubs, ensuring the holistic growth of the Blue Economy. Under PMMSY 102 numbers of Matsya Seva Kendras has been approved. All the States/UTs are requested in various review meeting to promote such Extension and support services to act as a last-mile delivery mechanism for fishers and fishermen in the country.”

[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries F. No. j-23011/3/2025-Fy(E-25457) Dated 25th June, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER-V

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

-NIL-

NEW DELHI;

15 December, 2025

24 Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI

Chairperson

**Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing**

ANNEXURE

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)

The Committee sat on Friday, the 19th September, 2025 from 1103 hrs. to 1335 hrs. in Committee Room No. 1, First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe (EPHA), New Delhi.

Present

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
4. Shri Kuldeep Indora
5. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
6. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
7. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
8. Shri Dharambir Singh
9. Shri Dushyant Singh

RAJYA SABHA

10. Smt. Ramlaben Becharbhai Bara
11. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
12. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
13. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
14. Shri Madan Rathore
15. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
16. Shri P. P. Suneer

Secretariat

1. Shri Dhiraj Kumar	–	Joint Secretary
2. Shri Maheshwar	–	Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan	-	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 of the following Draft Subject Reports and Draft Action Taken Reports:

- (i) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (ii) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (iii) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (iv) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (v) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (vi) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (vii) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*; and
- (viii) Action-taken Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 10th Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) presented during 18th Lok Sabha.

3. xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*.

4. The Committee also adopted the xxxxx* 10th Report on DFG (2025-26) with modifications as suggested in Annexure xxxxx* IV xxxxx*. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present the Reports to Parliament.

5. xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this report.

Annexure-IV

During the Sitting held on 19.09.2025, the Members made the following suggestions to be incorporated into the ATR on the Tenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries):-

Page no. of the Draft Report	Comments on Para No.	Original Comments	Modification incorporated
4	1.7	<p>The Department, however, in their reply is silent on the possibility of devising an incentive scheme as recommended by the Committee and whether such an incentive would bear positive results in increasing utilization of allocated budget and spending under SCSP and STSP. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and urge the Department on devising an incentive scheme as discussed above.</p>	<p>The Department in their reply, has not provided specific inputs on the possibility of devising an incentive scheme, as recommended by the Committee, or on its potential role in improving the utilization of the allocated budget under SCSP and STSP. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation and encourages the Department to consider formulating such a scheme.</p>
12-13	1.19	<p>The Department, however, is silent on the recommendation of the Committee that Matsya Seva Kendra may be established in every district of the country which has a sizeable population of fishermen/fish farmers. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and desire that the Department may further apprise the Committee regarding the measures taken in this matter.</p>	<p>The Department has not specifically addressed the Committee's recommendation regarding the establishment of Matsya Seva Kendra in every district with a sizeable population of fishermen/fish farmers. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation and requests the Department to apprise it of the measures taken in this regard.</p>

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TENTH REPORT
(18TH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25) ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2025-26)

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

(i)	Total Number of Recommendations	10
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted By the Government Para Nos. 2,3,5,6,7,8 and 10	Total 07 Percentage 70%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Para No. NIL	Total 00 Percentage 00%
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Para Nos. 1,4 and 9	Total 03 Percentage 30%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited Para No. NIL	Total 00 Percentage 00%