

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
AND FOOD PROCESSING

23

(2025-2026)

EIGHTEENTH LOKSABHA

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

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)'

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

TWENTY THIRD REPORT



LOKSABHASECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

DECEMBER, 2025/AGRAHAYANA, 1947(SAKA)

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ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING**

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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)

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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
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(2025-26)**

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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 Third Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Third Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries).

2. The Third Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) 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 17.12.2024. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 30.04.2025.

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 Third Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2024-25) 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 Third Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) 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 17th December, 2024.

1.2 The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 11 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, 6,8,10,11
Total 8
Chapter-II
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:
Recommendation Para No. 3, 9
Total 02
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. 7
Total 01
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.

STATUS OF UTILISATION CERTIFICATES (UCs)

(RECOMMENDATIO PARA NO.4)

1.5 The Committee had observed/recommended: -

As there are pending utilization certificates involving huge amount of funds disbursed, this Committee in their Recommendation at Sl.no 5 contained in the 53rd Third Report on Demands for Grants (23-24) had recommended the Department to take concrete steps by pursuing with the States/UTs at regular intervals to liquidate the Utilization Certificates (UCs) so that the pending liability on account of already approved Projects also gets reduced and the Schemes/Projects are completed well in time. The Dept in their action take replies informed that they had taken up the matter at the highest levels of the state Govt *inter alia* for expediting the utilization of available funds. Further, the States are also being monitored on daily basis for timely release of central and state shares to SNA from treasury and immediate distribution of such funds to beneficiaries through child account to expedite the implementation of the scheme and to minimize the pendency of un-utilized funds. The Committee while appreciating the efforts taken by the Department, note that despite their best efforts, Utilisation certificates are pending involving huge amount of Rs 584 crore. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to explore the possibility of developing a rating system for states based on their performance in utilizing funds and furnishing UCs on time and

offer non-financial incentives to better performing states in this regard. The Committee believe that such a rating and awarding non-financial incentives will spur competition among the states in utilising funds and in furnishing UCs on time. The concrete action taken in this regard be intimated to the Committee.

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

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

Further, Department of Fisheries approved the State Annual Action Plan (AAP) and relaxation in this regard issued to all the States/UTs, so that states can utilize part of unspent balance against any of the approved projects under PMMSY.

Such efforts taken by the Department of Fisheries helped in expediting the utilization of funds by the States and the unspent balance available with States has come down to Rs. 446.26 crore. The Department is continuing its efforts through periodic review meetings at different levels for speedy utilization of the central and state funds. The comments of the Committee have been noted for further necessary action.

1.7 The Committee, while appreciating the efforts taken by the Department of Fisheries to liquidate the Utilisation Certificates pending with States and UTs, amounting to Rs 584 crore, had recommended that, the Department may

explore the possibility of developing a rating system for States/UTs based on their performance in utilising funds and furnishing UCs on time, and, offer non-financial incentives to better performing States/UTs. In their reply, the Department of Fisheries have enumerated several measures initiated by them to address the issue of slow pace of funds utilisation and have stated that there has been a reduction in unspent balance available with States, which has now come down to Rs 446.26 crore. The Committee, observe that besides these routine measures taken by the Department of Fisheries, some incentives may also be extended to States/UTs who have performed well in submitting Utilisation Certificates. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Department may explore the possibility of developing a rating system for States/UTs based on their performance in utilizing funds and furnishing Utilisation Certificates on time, and offer them non-financial incentives.

SCHEDULED CASTES SUB PLAN (SCSP) (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.5)

1.8 The Committee had observed/recommended: -

The Committee observe that during the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, the Department has surrendered funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) to the tune of Rs 20.35, 46.98 and 66.15 crore respectively. The funds surrendered during the financial year 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 in percentage terms amounts to 10.15%, 19.84% & 26.25% respectively of the funds earmarked at revised estimates stage for SCSP. The Committee has been informed that the reason for surrender of funds under the SCSP head of PMMSY was due to non-receipt of proposals from the States/UTs under SCSP. The Committee has also been informed that for fishery related projects, land and investment is required, however, due to weak

financial status of most of the Scheduled Castes population of the country, they are unable to provide bank collateral, and therefore, even sanctioned projects, are unable to take off in real, on the ground.

In this context, the Committee would like to draw the attention of the department to recommendation at Sl. no. 6 contained in the 53rd report on DFG (23-24) wherein they had urged the Department to encourage/pursue and incentivize States/UTs to send proposals under the SCSP so that the vision/mission of the scheme is achieved and the benefits reach the Scheduled Caste Population of the Country.

The Committee while expressing serious concern at the declining trend of utilisation of funds under SCSP for the last three years, suggest suitable measures be taken to arrest this trend. They also recommend the Department to analyse the reasons for non-receipt of the proposals from the state Govts and initiate suitable action including review of features, terms & conditions, eligibility criteria, etc. and tweaking of these, if necessary, to ensure the receipt of proposals from the state/ UT Governments for optimal utilization of the funds be taken.

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

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

- I. Mandatory earmarking of minimum 16.6% of the budget allocated under Schedule Cast Sub-Plan (SCSP) for the benefits of scheduled caste beneficiaries and advising States/UTs to include SC/ST beneficiaries accordingly in their annual action plans. Specific mention of the Ministry of Finance instructions in the annual administrative approval of the Scheme that the fund earmarked Scheduled Caste beneficiaries are to be utilized exclusively for development of Schedule Castes.

II.Requesting the End Implementing Agencies i.e. Central Government entities including the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to include suitable interventions/activities for supporting SC population appropriately in their respective Annual Action Plan or Project Proposals. Similarly, State Governments/UTs are requested regularly to make specific allocation of funds for SCs in their Annual Action Plan/Self-contained proposals/DPRs based on the percentage of SC population in their jurisdiction.

1.10 Expressing serious concern over the surrender of funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) during the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, and the declining trend of utilisation of funds under SCSP, the Committee had recommended that, the Department may analyse the reasons for non-receipt of proposals from States/UTs and also initiate suitable action such as review of features, terms and conditions, eligibility criteria and making changes in them, if necessary, to ensure receipt of proposals. However, the Department of Fisheries, in their reply have stated that they have highlighted the matter with States/UTs and have been advising them to ensure that minimum 16.6% of the Scheduled Castes beneficiaries are included for financial assistance in Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) project proposals, while preparing the State Annual Action Plan. Further, the End Implementing Agencies such as National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) have also been requested to include suitable interventions for Scheduled Castes population in their respective Annual Action Plan or Project Proposals. The Committee, observe that, the reasons causing hindrances in the receipt of proposals from States/UTs should be examined and addressed adequately. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation, that, in addition to the above measures, the Department may also analyse the reasons for non-receipt of proposals from States/UTs and initiate suitable action such as review

of features, terms and conditions, eligibility criteria etc. and change them if necessary.

KISAN CREDIT CARD (KCC)

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.7)

1.11 The Committee had observed/recommended: -

The Committee acknowledges the measures taken by the Department such as Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan" and nationwide rural awareness campaign namely "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" for disseminating information, raising awareness and extending services at each Gram Panchayat. The Committee note that KCC scheme for fish farmers is one of the 18 schemes chosen for the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" to expand its coverage, provide on-spot services to the fishers, fish farmers and to disseminate information, and create awareness amongst the fishermen. Further, the Department of Fisheries (DoF) has been pursuing with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), M/o Finance for inclusion of the Fisheries Sector in the 'Jan Samarth' portal (www.jansamarth.in), which was on-boarded on 15th March 2024.

The Committee while appreciating the measures taken by the Department in making KCC a success, suggest the department to address the challenges reflected in the vast gap between the receipt of applications for issue of KCC and sanctions as 4.33 lakhs KCCs only for fishermen were sanctioned as against 50 lakh applications received. They also suggest identifying the reasons for such a huge gap and take appropriate measures including undertaking a special drive to improve the sanctioning of KCCs to more Fishermen.

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

To saturate the eligible fishers and fish farmers with the KCC facility and facilitate access to institutional credit at a subvented interest rate, the Department of Fisheries has been actively coordinating with the Ministry of

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, and the Fisheries Department of all the States/UTs.

The 'Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign for 2024-25' has also been launched from 15th September 2024 to 31st March 2025, for saturating all the eligible fishers and fish farmers. During this campaign, Gram Panchayat-level KCC Camps are being organised by the State/UT Fisheries Departments for on-the-spot scrutiny of applications sourced in both modes (offline through Common Service Centres and online via the 'JanSamarth' portal (www.jansamarth.in)).

The District Fisheries Officers in States/UTs have designated as the Nodal Officers at the district level for the KCC campaign. They coordinate with the Lead District Managers (LDMs) to ensure the timely approval and sanctioning of KCC loans from the banks. The State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) is organizing weekly KCC Loan Camps at the district level to facilitate the sanctioning of eligible KCC working capital loans for fishermen.

Further, in the Union Budget 2025-26, the Government of India has enhanced the KCC lending limit for fishers and fish farmers from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh. Additionally, the collateral-free loan limit for KCC fisheries has been raised from ₹1.60 lakh to ₹2 lakh, effective from 1st January, 2025. The status of pending proposals is regularly reviewed by the District Collector and by the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC). A total number of 4,63,492 numbers of KCC cards has been Sanctioned with the Sanctioned Amount of Rs. 2982.58 crore.

Few of the reasons for the gap between the receipt of applications for the issue of KCC and sanctions are as below:

- a. Reluctance in sanctioning KCC loans by most bank branches in districts.
- b. Lack of awareness amongst the majority of the bank staff about KCC guidelines/SOP for fisheries
- c. Lack of online facilities for uploading KCC applications through e-seva centre or bank website etc
- d. Applicants not able to arrange the required guarantor for availing KCC loan as per the requirement set by the bank and are claimed as invalid.

- e. Land ownership Issues (Banks don't consider family on land/multi-owner land)
- f. Comparatively lower scale of finance approved for fisheries activities as KCC loans
- g. Rejection of applications based on: Low CIBIL scores of applicants, pending loan to be recovered by the bank and Default NPA
- h. Lack of sufficient manpower in the local fisheries' offices to undertake KCC mandate.

At present no insurance coverage available to cover fishery crop and due to that banks are very much reluctant to provide loan to the poor fishermen without any collateral. A robust effort is being initiated to start the insurance coverage for fisheries under the new flagship sub-scheme namely, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), which is a Central Sector Sub-scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

1.13 The Committee had Recommended that the Department of Fisheries may identify the reasons for the huge gap between the receipt of applications for issue of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and actual sanctions, as only 4.33 lakh KCC were sanctioned to fishermen as against 50 lakh applications received. The Department, in their reply, have enumerated various reasons for the said gap, however, they have also stated that, at present no insurance coverage is available to cover fishery crop, and due to that, banks are reluctant to provide loans to the poor fishermen without any collateral. The Department has further stated that robust efforts are initiated to start the insurance coverage for fisheries under the new flag ship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) which is a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The Committee, appreciate the efforts taken by the

Department to formulate a scheme which would give insurance cover to fishery crop and would further like to be apprised on the matter.

CONTINUATION OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY) AS PHASE-II

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.10)

1.14 The Committee had observed/recommended: -

The Committee note that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), a flagship initiative of the Department launched in 2020-21, has been instrumental in transforming India's fisheries and aquaculture sector and with a substantial investment of Rs 20,050 crore, PMMSY has focused on sustainable and responsible development, aiming to boost the sector's contribution to the national economy and food security. The Committee has been informed that till date 35 States and Union Territories have participated in PMMSY and out of the Rs 20,864.29 crore proposals approved till date, the Central share amounts to Rs 8871.42 crore out of which an amount of Rs 4670.80 crore have been released to States/UTs and other Implementing agencies. Thus the remaining committed liability of the Department amounts to Rs. 4200 crore, which has to be spent till March 2025, *i.e.* when the tenure of the scheme concludes.

The Committee observe that there is a need to extend the scheme for another five years to sustain the momentum of the initial phase and further accelerate and strengthen the development of India's blue economy. By continuing the scheme, the government can capitalize on the initial successes and ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for the fisheries sector. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend 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. PMMSY Phase-II will focus on 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.

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

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.

1.16 Acknowledging the importance of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in transforming India's Fisheries/Aquaculture Sector and strengthening the development of India's Blue Economy, the Committee, had recommended that PMMSY may be extended for a period of another five years i.e. from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 as PMMSY Phase-II. Department of Fisheries in their reply have stated that extension of PMMSY for another five years (2026-27 to FY2030-31) would be done after detailed guidelines issued by DoE with approval of CA/Cabinet. The Committee, observe that, extension of PMMSY for another five years would strengthen seafood exports, Island fisheries development (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands) and would also infuse cutting-edge technologies and modernise Fisheries Sector. The Committee, appreciate the efforts taken by the Department of Fisheries and would like to be apprised further on the developments regarding extension of the Scheme.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

1. Decline in Actual Expenditure.

As there have been cases of underutilization of allocated resources for various schemes/ projects under Central Sector (CS) and Centrally Sponsored schemes (CCS), the Committee in their Recommendation at Sl. no. 1 contained in the 53rd Report on DFG (2023-24), had recommended that the Department should devise a mechanism to remove the difficulties faced by States/UTs while adhering to the guidelines of the new financial system and Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Account to maximize the Expenditure and also to reduce the pendency of Utilization Certificates with States/UTs. The Committee notes that the revised procedure for release of funds to the States was issued on 23rd March, 2021 and it's been more than three years since this new procedure was introduced.

The Committee note that the reason for underutilization during the Financial Year 2023-24, again, was attributed to new financial system and the release of Central Funds to States/UTs, opening of SNA and Child Accounts by States/UTs. Delay in Contribution of State matching share is the other reason for decline in Actual Expenditure by the States/UTs during the Financial Year 2023-24. The Department in their Action Taken Reply to the above referred Recommendation had assured of strict compliance of the Recommendation of the Committee along with various measures to streamline the procedure of Single Nodal Agency (SNA).

The Committee observe that it has been more than three years since the new financial system is put in place by the Ministry of Finance. The desired results, however, have not been achieved as envisaged by the Department and the reasons for underutilization continue to remain the same. The Committee, therefore, recommend 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. For the Socio-Economic upliftment of the Fishermen in general and traditional fishermen in particular, targeted and effective implementation of the Schemes of the Department becomes imperative. It, therefore, becomes all the more necessary that the Budget allocation for various Schemes of the Department is

utilized in full. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department and progress achieved in this regard.

Reply of the Government:

In order to bring more efficiency in cash management at both Centre and States levels, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide OM No.1(27)/PFMS/2020 dated 13th July 2023 has notified an alternative fund flow mechanism for releasing central funds to the State Governments on “Just-in-Time” basis under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). This new system has been named as SNA-SPARSH wherein 28 schemes including PMMSY have been on boarded with effect from 1st June, 2024. Under this new system, 26 States 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, Dept. of Fisheries
F. No. J-17001/91/2024-Fy(E-24961) Dated 30th April, 2025

2. PMMSY- Advertising and Publicity.

The Committee note that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with a view to create awareness about the features and benefits of scheme and its sub components, among the stake holders such as fish farmers, fishermen, entrepreneurs, fishermen cooperative societies, have been allocating funds since the launch of the scheme in 2020-21 for advertisement and Publicity of the scheme. The allocations of Rs. 1crore and 2.4 crore for the purpose at RE stage of 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively were fully spent. The funds given in the years 2022-23 & 2023-24, however, could not be spent fully. For instance, the allocation of Rs. 8 crore for 2022-23 at BE was reduced to Rs. 66 lakh and the actual spending amounted to Rs. 46.37 lakh. Such downward revision of BE can be seen in 2023-24 also, wherein BE of

Rs. 8.51 crore was reduced to Rs. 6 crore at RE and actual utilization stood at Rs. 50 lakh only, which is a meager 8.3 % of the RE.

The Committee note that under PMMSY, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is the nodal agency for implementing the activities such as training, awareness, exposure and capacity building programme for fishermen. NFDB is also active in organizing various State/National level fish festivals to create awareness on schemes, new technologies and also to increase domestic fish consumption using digital means, campaigns, audio-video publicity, print media and hoardings.

The Committee take a very serious note of the trend of downward revisions of BE at RE stage and large scale underutilization of these RE funds during the last two years. The Committee are of the view that without dissemination of features, benefits, eligibility criteria, etc., of the PMMSY, the achievement of the objectives of the scheme may have been compromised. The Committee, therefore, while seeking the specific reasons for reduction in allocations at RE stage of 2022-23 and 2023-24 and also the difficulties faced, if any, in utilizing the funds, suggest that suitable steps be taken to utilize the allocated funds in future to have maximum impact on the targeted beneficiaries of PMMSY. The Committee also recommend that to achieve the target of attaining 12 kg per capita domestic consumption of fish under PMMSY, which is a cheap source of protein, proactive measures using Advertising and Publicity should be actively resorted to.

The Committee while appreciating (i) ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetics and Resources (ICAR- NBFGR), Lucknow for implementing National Surveillance Programme on Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) and NSPAAD-phase-II for control of diseases and dissemination of information to fish/shrimp farmers through mobile based applications such as “Report Fish Disease (RFD), a mobile based application for strengthening farmer based disease reporting; and, (ii) ICAR- Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) for launching an interactive mobile app “Treat My Fish” for providing specific advisory services to the farmers for different fish diseases of freshwater aquaculture, they would like to be apprised of (i) the number of fishermen and other stakeholders who downloaded the app both in absolute and percentage of the total no of stakeholders (approx.); and, (ii) whether the

assessment of impact of the app was carried out to ascertain the achievement or otherwise of intended objectives.

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 such as short news apps/google/face book etc, campaign in railway stations, airports, audio-video publicity in the form of Jingles/video films and printing /publicity (Magazines and Newspapers), installing Hoardings etc. The said outreach campaigns are taken up to create awareness in rural and urban people through print, audio-visual, outdoor, digital and electronic media through Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) which is the nodal agency to undertake multi-media advertising and publicity for various Ministries and Departments of Government of India.

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 insurance scheme benefits, PMMSY workshops, Anniversary program, door to door campaign on KCC seeking grievances.

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

The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD), which is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), is implemented by the Department of Fisheries and coordinated by ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR). NSPAAD aims to strengthen aquatic animal disease management in India through various initiatives, including disease surveillance, disease diagnostic centers, and the "Report Fish Disease" app. The RFD app will help the farmers in reporting incidence of diseases in finfish, shrimps, and molluscs on their farms with the field level-officers and fish health experts. This shall

help farmers in getting the scientific advice for efficient management of disease. The data regarding the diseases will be stored on temporal & spatial scale and can be used for mapping the disease cases.

The App would support farmers in improving farmer-based reporting, getting scientific advice, and reducing losses due to diseases, thereby increasing farmers' income. Also, Fish Disease Reporting App shall have a massive impact on fish disease management, promoting early detection, rapid response, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. It will contribute to the sustainability and resilience of aquaculture systems by minimizing the negative impacts of fish diseases on fish population, industry, and ecosystems. As on date more than 18400 beneficiaries are using this app for disease reporting in the country.

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4. Status of Utilisation Certificates (UCs)

As there are pending utilization certificates involving huge amount of funds disbursed, this Committee in their Recommendation at Sl.no 5 contained in the 53rd Third Report on Demands for Grants (23-24) had recommended the Department to take concrete steps by pursuing with the States/UTs at regular intervals to liquidate the Utilization Certificates (UCs) so that the pending liability on account of already approved Projects also gets reduced and the Schemes/Projects are completed well in time. The Dept in their action take replies informed that they had taken up the matter at the highest levels of the state Govt *inter alia* for expediting the utilization of available funds. Further, the States are also being monitored on daily basis for timely release of central and state shares to SNA from treasury and immediate distribution of such funds to beneficiaries through child account to expedite the implementation of the scheme and to minimize the pendency of un-utilized funds. The Committee while appreciating the efforts taken by the Department, note that despite their best efforts, Utilisation certificates are pending involving huge amount of Rs 584 crore. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to explore the possibility of developing a rating system for states based on their performance in utilizing funds and furnishing UCs on time and offer non-financial incentives to better performing states in this regard. The

Committee believe that such a rating and awarding non-financial incentives will spur competition among the states in utilising funds and in furnishing UCs on time. The concrete action taken in this regard be intimated to the Committee.

Reply of the Government:

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

Further, Department of Fisheries approved the State Annual Action Plan (AAP) and relaxation in this regard issued to all the States/UTs, so that states can utilize part of unspent balance against any of the approved projects under PMMSY.

Such efforts taken by the Department of Fisheries helped in expediting the utilization of funds by the States and the unspent balance available with States has come down to Rs. 446.26 crore. The Department is continuing its efforts through periodic review meetings at different levels for speedy utilization of the central and state funds. The comments of the Committee have been noted for further necessary action.

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Comments of the Committee

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

5. Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)

The Committee observe that during the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, the Department has surrendered funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) to the tune of Rs 20.35, 46.98 and 66.15 crore respectively. The funds surrendered during the financial year 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 in percentage terms amounts to 10.15%, 19.84% & 26.25 % respectively of the funds earmarked at revised estimates stage for SCSP. The Committee has been informed that the reason for surrender of funds under the SCSP head of PMMSY was due to non-receipt of proposals from the States/UTs under SCSP. The Committee has also been informed that for fishery related projects, land and investment is required, however, due to weak financial status of most of the Scheduled Castes population of the country, they are unable to provide bank collateral, and therefore, even sanctioned projects, are unable to take off in real, on the ground.

In this context, the Committee would like to draw the attention of the department to recommendation at SI no. 6 contained in the 53rd report on DFG (23-24) where in they had urged the Department to encourage/pursue and incentivize States/UTs to send proposals under the SCSP so that the vision/mission of the scheme is achieved and the benefits reach the Scheduled Caste Population of the Country.

The Committee while expressing serious concern at the declining trend of utilisation of funds under SCSP for the last three years, suggest suitable measures be taken to arrest this trend. They also recommend the Department to analyze the reasons for non-receipt of the proposals from the state Govts and initiate suitable action including review of features, terms & conditions, eligibility criteria, etc. and tweaking of these, if necessary, to ensure the receipt of proposals from the state/ UT Governments for optimal utilization of the funds be taken.

Reply of the Government:

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has highlighted matter with the States/UTs having sizeable Schedule Caste beneficiaries in all the review meetings and have been advised to ensure that minimum 16.6% of the Schedule Caste beneficiaries are included for financial assistance in PMMSY projects proposals

while preparing the state annual action plan. Further, the measure taken up by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India in this regard include:

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

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Comments of the Committee

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

6. Integrated Farming Systems

The Committee note that Integrated fish farming is a system of producing fish in combination with other agricultural/livestock farming operations centered around the fish pond. They also note that promotion of integrated fish farming in the North-Eastern States is cornerstone of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) strategy.

The Committee observe that there are many wet lands and water bodies in the country which can be focused upon and developed into Integrated Fish Farms. In the North-East region, they note, around five thousand hectares of land are being developed for Integrated Fish Farming. The Committee observe that states namely Bihar and West Bengal have vast area of wet lands which can also be developed under Integrated fish farming as is being done in the North East. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should devise a plan/policy to utilise wet lands and water bodies available in States/UTs other than North Eastern regions for the development of Integrated Farming Systems. This would in turn give a push to the economic well being of the fishers of the Country in general and also promote inland fisheries as part of Bio-Economy which would ascertain minimal scope for wastage and high reutilization on the farm along with increase in fish production and other livestock.

Reply of the Government:

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme being implemented by the Department *inter alia*, supported fish seed stocking of reservoirs, wetlands like *beels*, ox-bow lakes etc., *in situ* hatcheries and fingerlings rearing units for open water bodies along with Integrated fish farming and need based aquaculture activities in freshwater, brackish water, saline/alkaline affected soil areas.

The North-Eastern States, with their abundant water resources, including rivers, lakes, and ponds, are ideal for integrated fish farming. The integration of various farming practices such as fish culture, poultry, piggery, and agriculture can help diversify income sources for farmers while promoting sustainable practices. The PMMSY aims to increase fish production and productivity, improve infrastructure, and promote eco-friendly and community-based aquaculture practices, particularly in these resource-rich regions. Under PMMSY during last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) a total 5063.11 ha area has been sanctioned.

For holistic development of Fisheries in the Country, the PMMSY scheme is in the terminal year of implementation of 5 years and based on the findings of the evaluation of PMMSY, special focus will be given for development of Wetland Fishery in States/UTs other than North Eastern Region to push to the economic wellbeing of the

fishers of the Country in general and also promote inland fisheries as part of Bio-Economy.

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8. Welfare Schemes, Insurance, Health and Education to Fishers

The Committee note that under PMMSY, Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages (IMCV) are being developed with the aim to maximize economic and social benefits to coastal fishers while minimizing environmental degradation through sustainable fishing practices. Further, through IMCV, fishers of these villages are empowered for securing their livelihoods along with modern amenities, disaster resilient houses, cyclone and tsunami shelters, post-harvest amenities, etc. The Committee notes that under PMMSY 11 IMCV's have been sanctioned at a total investment of Rs. 77.56 crore.

The Committee has also been informed that Marine Fisheries Census which is being carried out by Department of Fisheries every five years was carried out the last time in the year 2016 covering all maritime states/UTs. The survey provides the information on village wise population, number of active fishermen and different types of fishing units, number of mechanized and indigenous fishing crafts and gears for each maritime states, marine fishing villages, marine fish landing centers, etc. They note more than five years have elapsed since the last fish census, carried out in 2016, they would like to be informed of whether the next marine Fisheries census has commenced and if so the details thereof. In case, it is not commenced, they suggest the same may be undertaken without any delay as the PMMSY initiated in 2020-21, may have used the data of 2016 census. As eight years have passed since then, the Committee feel that it is imperative to have updated data on the fisheries sector to have maximum reach under PMMSY.

The Committee also recommend that the Department should take substantive measures to increase the number of IMCV's in the country so that the welfare measures including health and education needs of the fishermen are taken care of

and would like to be apprised of the status of implementation of 11 sanctioned Integrated Model Coastal Fishing Villages (IMCVs) with a budget of Rs. 77.56 crore.

Reply of the Government:

Department of Fisheries, Government of India has approved the Marine Fisheries Census 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs.1458.08 lakh to ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, who will be the nodal institute to conduct the census operations in 9 Marine States while Fishery Survey of India will conduct the census operations in four UTs (A&N Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and D&N Haveli & Daman and Diu). The proposed timeline for the Marine Census, 2025 is one year from April, 2025 to March, 2026.

The objectives of Marine Fisheries Census 2025-26 are as follows:

- a. To completely enumerate marine fisher households of the 13 states and UTs of India (UTs will be covered by FSI)
- b. To collate particulars that would give comprehensive idea about the fisher families, economic status, educational status, community/ cast, occupational profile of fisherfolk with family as unit
- c. To have a complete count of fishing craft, gear and other professional gadgets in possession of each family
- d. To have a complete account of fishing craft along with their gear(s) that are operational at the landing centres
- e. To have an exhaustive information repository of fishery related infrastructure at the avail of the fisherfolk- ice plants, peeling/ curing yards, processing plants etc.
- f. To have a focused listing of general amenities and facilities available at the villages where the fisherfolk reside permanently

Moreover, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) has accorded approvals to the proposals for development of 11 integrated Modern Costal Fishing Villages with total outlay of Rs.7756.46 lakh, which include (i) nine coastal villages at a cost of Rs. 6106.61 lakh in Kerala, (ii) one costal 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. The latest progress on State wise implementation of 11 Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Village is as under:

The latest progress State wise on implementation of the approved 11 Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages is as under:

(Rs.in lakhs)

S.No	Name of village	District	Date of approval	Approved project cost	Broad components	Latest progress (physical)
A. Kerala						
1	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Village-Arattupuzha	Alappuzha	12.03.2024	619.50	Development of facilities for Fish Landing Centre, Training centre, OBM repair Centre, Cold storage Facility, Fishermen Community development center, Fish processing kiosk, sea food cafeteria / fish product outlet for fisherwoman, Portable Solar dryer, Cage culture, Aquarium cum rearing unit, artificial reef off the coast, Construction of Disaster resilient	All activities approved are progressing well towards grounding. Land has been identified for most of infra projects and permissive sanction received from concerned authorities at district level, beneficiary selection completed, tendering under process for public toilets, coordinates fixed for artificial reefs.
2	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Village-Chaliyam	Kozhikode	12.03.2024	732.95		
3	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing village-Chellanam	Ernakulam	12.03.2024	569.97		
4	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing village-Nayarambalam	Ernakulam	12.03.2024	710.24		
5	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing village-Tanur	Malappuram	12.03.2024	717.47		
6	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing village-Ponnani	Malappuram	12.03.2024	724.10		
7	Integrated Modern Coastal	Kannur	12.03.2024	636.50		

	Fishing village-Chalilgopalpetta				settlements for fishermen rehabilitation during environment disaster, Fisheries	For Rehabilitation Centre cum community centre and Model Disaster
8	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing village-Shiriya	Kasargod	12.03.2024	704.32		
9	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing village-Edakazhiyoor.	Thrissur	12.03.2024	691.56	extension cum common utility centre, Emergency treatment and Rescue block for Fishermen, Installation of high mast light in fishing hamlets, fish feed mill, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of fishermen dwelling, e-scooters for fish vending, Ecotourism, additional area for parking in the fish landing centre premises, community Toilet block, ice Box to selected fishermen.	resilient Houses at Malappuram land issues (proposed land under court case) State has taken action taken to identify new land.
B West Bengal						
10	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Village-Gangadharpur, Kakdweep,	South 24 parganas	28.03.2023	750.00	Work for 14 no link road, Fish Market, Multipurpose Community Hall	Work for 14 no link road has been completed with the project cost of an amount of Rs. 1.56 crores.

						Amount paid Rs.1.19 crores rest is in the process for payment through SNA - SPARSH. Work for market and multipurpose community hall is in full swing. Expected by April 25.
C	Lakshadweep					
11	Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Village	Not selected		899.00	Not identified	
		Total		7756.46		

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10. Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) as Phase-II

The Committee note that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), a flagship initiative of the Department launched in 2020-21, has been instrumental in transforming India's fisheries and aquaculture sector and with a substantial investment of Rs 20,050 crore, PMMSY has focused on sustainable and responsible development, aiming to boost the sector's contribution to the national economy and food security. The Committee has been informed that till date 35 States and Union Territories have participated in PMMSY and out of the Rs 20,864.29 crore proposals approved till date, the Central share amounts to Rs 8871.42 crore out of which an amount of Rs 4670.80 crore have been released to States/UTs and other Implementing agencies. Thus, the remaining committed liability of the Department

amounts to Rs. 4200 crore, which has to be spent till March 2025, *i.e.* when the tenure of the scheme concludes.

The committee observe that there is a need to extend the scheme for another five years to sustain the momentum of the initial phase and further accelerate and strengthen the development of India's blue economy. By continuing the scheme, the government can capitalize on the initial successes and ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for the fisheries sector. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend 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. PMMSY Phase-II will focus on 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 modernize fisheries sector.

Reply of the Government:

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.

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Comments of the Committee

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

11. Registration of Fishers

The Committee has been informed that there are about 2.8 crore fisherfolk, fish farmers and other fish value chain stakeholders engaged in fisheries sector in States/UTs. The Committee appreciates the initiative taken by the Department in developing a dedicated National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) under the Pradhan

Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) to register and provide work-based identity to all the fishers and fish farmers and other value chain stakeholders. However, the Committee note that till date under NDFP a total of 8.60 lakh fisheries stakeholders including 8.56 lakh individuals and 3393 organisations have been registered. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should undertake proactive measures and devise effective initiatives to reach out to the remaining un-registered fishermen and assure that all the fishermen in the country are registered so that the schemes/policies of the government are better oriented in a targeted manner and benefit the fishermen of the country.

Reply of the Government:

Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-yojana (PMMKSSY), a National Fisheries Digital Platform (NDFP) and Mobile App is created for fishers, fish farmers, fish workers etc. for self-registration or assisted registration, self-reporting and creation of work-based identities, with appropriate interfaces for digital payment and financial access including interfaces with public sector platforms for social safety net and Direct Benefit Transfer. On NDFP, the registrations can be done through two mode (i) individual (ii) CSC VLE assisted mode.

Department of Fisheries, GoI has taken number of steps to create awareness and disseminate information and knowledge amongst the stakeholders as well as initiate mass mobilisation for registrations on NDFP through self-mode or Common Service Centre(CSC) assisted mode.

More than 30 Consultation meetings have been undertaken as part of outreach and awareness campaigns for registration with States/UTs, Fisheries College/University, ICAR Institutes and DoF Institutes, Central Ministries/Departments and agencies, Cooperatives and so on. A pan India live meeting on facebook, youtube and twitter was conducted in coordination with CSC for boosting registrations on NDFP wherein beneficiaries and CSC VLEs participated.

Apart from this, DoF has conducted Application mobilization camps from 14th - 22nd February, 2025 in all States/UTs in coordination with CSC VLEs and State/UT fisheries Department. Further, at ground level CSC VLE s and Sagar mitras are reaching the local masses for registrations on NDFP.

As a result of all these efforts, the registrations on NFDP have crossed mark of 22.37 lakh as on date.

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CHAPTER – III

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

3. Utilization of Funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)

The Committee observe that the Actual Expenditure under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) component of the Department showed a declining trend from 2021-22 onwards *vis-a-vis* the Revised estimates. Rs. 1200, 1410 and Rs.1500 crore were allocated at RE stage during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. The actuals, amounted to Rs. 1191.45, 1290 and 1196.50 crore respectively resulting in underutilization of Rs. 8.55, 120 and 303.5 crore during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. Further, the budgetary allocations at BE stage were reduced by Rs.469 and Rs. 500 crore at RE stage during 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. But the actual amounts spent fell far short of reduced revised estimates as mentioned above. This spending pattern of the department for the last four years appears to recur again in 2024-25 also as against BE of Rs. 2,352 crore, only Rs. 484 crore was spent till November, 2024. The Committee are concerned to note that repeated underutilization of the amounts allocated even at Revised Estimates (RE) stage, year after year, shows lack of proper planning, assessment of the fund requirement, failure to take into account ground realities while making proposals for fund requirements even at RE stage. The repeated surrendering of the funds, the Committee are of the view, might have impacted adversely affecting the outcomes output envisaged under PMMSY. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to take proactive measures in this regard and ensure that the hurdles faced due to the implementation of the new financial system such as Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Account are overcome so as to ensure that the funds allocated for schemes are utilized in full.

Reply of the Government:

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has received overwhelming responses from states/UTs and projects worth of Rs. 20,930.33 Crores have been approved with the central share of Rs. 9179.78 crore during last five years since 2020-21. Out of the Central share approved an amount of Rs. 5213.81 crore

have been released and an amount of Rs. 3965.97 crore being the central liability under PMMSY. Since, 2023-24 the pace of fund flow and implementation of the scheme is not getting on the expected pace because of the modification of the fund flow procedure by the Ministry of Finance. Multiple criteria has been affected the implementation w.r.t. the said procedure. Now after various consultations and frequent monitoring with the State Governments, the pace of understanding to the procedure has been developed and it is expected that in the upcoming days the performance of funds utilization and implementation of the scheme shall be improved.

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9. Safety and Security of Fishermen at Sea

The Committee observe that PMMSY supports comprehensive Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) equipped with requisite communication and safety devices/appliances for traditional and motorized fishing vessels. Further, the Department of Fisheries, has sanctioned a project for installation of ISRO developed satellite-based Vessel Communication and Support System (transponders) on one lakh fishing vessels with an investment of Rs 364 crore. These transponders will be installed 'free of cost' in fishing vessels ensuring safety and security of fishermen at sea, enabling them to stay connected with security agencies, their families, and can seek assistance during natural calamities, weather changes, etc'.

The Committee observe that during the last five financial years, from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (up to 22.11.2024) the dept released Rs 54 crore only, under the Component 'Transponders' as against the total project cost of 364 crore, which also includes the Central share or Rs 218.40 crore. Given the importance of safety and security of fishermen at sea, the Committee want the Department to apprise them of the specific reasons for releasing less than one seventh of the total project outlay even five years (approx.) under this component.

Reply of the Government:

The Department of Fisheries, under the *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana* (PMMSY), has approved a project on National Rollout Plan for Vessel

Communication and Support System in about one lakh marine fishing vessels including mechanized and motorized vessels across 9 coastal states and 4 union territories with an outlay of Rs.364 Crores on 30th March,2023. This system will provide two-way communication system to fishermen and also enable real-time tracking of fishing vessels including onboard crew, and monitoring of fishing harbours and fish landing centres across the country through mobile based 'National Fisheries App'.

Department of Fisheries, released 25% i.e 1/4th of the Central share of Rs. 54.60 crore on 31st March, 2023. Subsequently, on the further progress of the project in line with the project milestone, second installment amounting Rs. 23.00 crore was released on 28th February, 2025 and third instalment for an amount of Rs. 53.44 crore was released on 29th March, 2025. Till date, 24,622 transponders were installed in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and also in the UTs. of Daman and Diu and Puducherry.

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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 THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

7. Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

The Committee acknowledges the measures taken by the Department such as “Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan” and nationwide rural awareness campaign namely “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra” for disseminating information, raising awareness and extending services at each Gram Panchayat. The Committee note that KCC scheme for fish farmers is one of the 18 schemes chosen for the “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra” to expand its coverage, provide on-spot services to the fishers, fish farmers and to disseminate information, and create awareness amongst the fishermen. Further, the Department of Fisheries (DoF) has been pursuing with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), M/o Finance for inclusion of the Fisheries Sector in the ‘Jan Samarth’ portal (www.jansamarth.in), which was on-boarded on 15th March 2024.

The Committee while appreciating the measures taken by the Department in making KCC a success, suggest the department to address the challenges reflected in the vast gap between the receipt of applications for issue of KCC and sanctions as 4.33 lakhs KCCs only for fishermen were sanctioned as against 50 lakh applications received. They also suggest identifying the reasons for such a huge gap and take appropriate measures including undertaking a special drive to improve the sanctioning of KCCs to more Fishermen.

Reply of the Government:

To saturate the eligible fishers and fish farmers with the KCC facility and facilitate access to institutional credit at a subvented interest rate, the Department of Fisheries has been actively coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, and the Fisheries Department of all the States/UTs.

The ‘Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign for 2024-25’ has also been launched from 15th September 2024 to 31st March 2025, for saturating all the eligible fishers and fish farmers. During this campaign, Gram Panchayat-level KCC Camps are being

organised by the State/UT Fisheries Departments for on-the-spot scrutiny of applications sourced in both modes (offline through Common Service Centres and online via the 'JanSamarth' portal (www.jansamarth.in)).

The District Fisheries Officers in States/UTs have designated as the Nodal Officers at the district level for the KCC campaign. They coordinate with the Lead District Managers (LDMs) to ensure the timely approval and sanctioning of KCC loans from the banks. The State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) is organizing weekly KCC Loan Camps at the district level to facilitate the sanctioning of eligible KCC working capital loans for fishermen.

Further, in the Union Budget 2025-26, the Government of India has enhanced the KCC lending limit for fishers and fish farmers from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh. Additionally, the collateral-free loan limit for KCC fisheries has been raised from ₹1.60 lakh to ₹2 lakh, effective from 1st January, 2025. The status of pending proposals is regularly reviewed by the District Collector and by the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC). A total number of 4,63,492 numbers of KCC cards has been Sanctioned with the Sanctioned Amount of Rs. 2982.58 crore.

Few of the reasons for the gap between the receipt of applications for the issue of KCC and sanctions are as below:

- a. Reluctance in sanctioning KCC loans by most bank branches in districts.
- b. Lack of awareness amongst the majority of the bank staff about KCC guidelines/SOP for fisheries
- c. Lack of online facilities for uploading KCC applications through e-seva centre or bank website etc.
- d. Applicants not able to arrange the required guarantor for availing KCC loan as per the requirement set by the bank and are claimed as invalid.
- e. Land ownership Issues (Banks don't consider family on land/multi-owner land)
- f. Comparatively lower scale of finance approved for fisheries activities as KCC loans

- g. Rejection of applications based on: Low CIBIL scores of applicants, pending loan to be recovered by the bank and Default NPA
- h. Lack of sufficient manpower in the local fisheries' offices to undertake KCC mandate.

At present no insurance coverage available to cover fishery crop and due to that banks are very much reluctant to provide loan to the poor fishermen without any collateral. A robust effort is being initiated to start the insurance coverage for fisheries under the new flagship sub-scheme namely, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), which is a Central Sector Sub-scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Dept. of Fisheries
F. No. J-17001/91/2024-Fy(E-24961) Dated 30th April, 2025]**

Comments of the Committee

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

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 xxxxx*;
- (iii) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (iv) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (v) Action-taken Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 3rd Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) presented during 18th Lok Sabha;
- (vi) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*;
- (vii) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*, and
- (viii) xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*.

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Action Taken Report on the 3rd Report of the Committee on DFG (2024-25) without any modification.

4. xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*

5. xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx*.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this report.

APPENDIX

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

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

(i)	Total Number of Recommendations	11
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted By the Government Para Nos. 1,2,4,5,6,8,10 and 11	Total 08 72.72%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Para Nos. 3 and 9	Total 02 18.18%
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Para No. NIL	Total 00 00. 00%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited Para No. 7	Total 01 9.09%