



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

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2026-27)
(DEMAND NO. 43)**

TWENTY NINTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
16 MARCH, 2026/ PHALGUNA 25, 1947 (SAKA)**

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(DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES)**

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(DEMAND NO. 43)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.03.2026

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 16.03.2026



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
16 MARCH, 2026/ PHALGUNA 25, 1947 (SAKA)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING
18th Lok Sabha (2025-26)**

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI - CHAIRPERSON

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SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Ninth Report on the Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries).

2. The Committee under Rule 331E.(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha considered the Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries), which were laid on the table of the House on 11 February, 2026.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) at their Sitting held on 17 February, 2026. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 13th March, 2026.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officials of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information that they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department.

**New Delhi;
16th March, 2026
25 Phalgun, 1947 (Saka)**

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

ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Actual Expenditure
A & N Islands	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
ANB	Atmanirbhar Bharat
BE	Budget Estimates
CSS	Central Sector Scheme
CIFA	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture
CIFNET	Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training
CRCFV	Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages
DoF	Department of Fisheries
EEs	Eligible Entities
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zones
FIDF	Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund
FSI	Fishery Survey of India
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
GVA	Gross Value Added
GAIS	Group Accident Insurance Scheme
KCC	Kisan Credit Card
MEP	Monthly Expenditure Plan
MT	Metric Tonne
MMD	Mercantile Marine Department
MSK	Matsya Seva Kendra
NABARD	National Bank on Agriculture and Rural Development
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NLEs	Nodal Loaning Entities
NFDP	National Fisheries Development Portal
PMMSY	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
PMMKSSY	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana
QEP	Quarterly Expenditure Plan
RE	Revised Estimates
SNA	Single Nodal Agency
SCSP	Scheduled Caste Sub Plan
TSP	Tribal Sub-Plan
UC	Utilization Certificate

PART – I

CHAPTER – I

A. INTRODUCTION

The Department of fisheries was carved out of the Fishery Division from the erstwhile Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in June, 2019 with a vision to achieve “ecologically healthy, economically viable and socially inclusive fisheries that contributes towards doubling fishers and fish farmers’ incomes and economic prosperity in a sustainable, responsible and equitable manner”. The main objectives of the Department are to enhance fish production and productivity on an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable basis, tap the hitherto untapped potential of the Indian fisheries, conservation of aquatic resources and genetic diversity, preservation of health of ecosystems, strengthening of infrastructure in harvest, post-harvest, value-addition & marketing and upliftment of fishers and aqua-farmers communities with gainful employment opportunities and capacity strengthening.

1.2 The Department is responsible for matters relating to formulation of policies and schemes pertaining to Development of Inland, Marine and Coastal Fisheries and oversight of Fishery Institutes which includes four subordinate offices, one autonomous body and one regulatory authority viz:

Subordinate Institutions

- a) Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai.
- b) Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi.
- c) National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology & Training (NIFPHATT), Kochi.
- d) Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bengaluru.

Autonomous and Regulatory Bodies

- a) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.
- b) Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai.

1.3 Currently, India ranks 1st in inland Capture Fisheries and is the second largest fisheries and Aquaculture producing country in the world accounting for 8% of the global fish production and growing at an average annual growth rate of 8.74%. The Fishery sector in India contributed around 1.09% percent to the National Gross Value Added (GVA) and 7.43 % to the Agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) during the FY 2024-25. The total fish production during the FY 2024-25 in the country is estimated at 197.75 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) with a contribution of 151.6 Lakh Ton from Inland sector and 46.15 Lakh Ton from Marine sector. The Sector also plays a major role in foreign exchange earnings where the exports of marine products stood at 16.98 Lakh Ton of seafood, valued at Rs. 62,408 crore during the FY 2024-25.

1.4 The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is the flagship scheme implemented from 2020-21 and is also a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package which intends to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable development of fisheries sector. Initially approved at a total estimation of Rs. 20,050 Crores comprising of Central share of Rs. 9,407 Crores, State share of Rs.4,880 Crores and Beneficiaries contribution of Rs. 5,763 Crores. The approved 5 years tenure of PMMSY has ended on 31st March, 2025, the Ministry of Finance has extended the tenure of the scheme till the end of 15th Finance Commission Cycle i.e. till end of 2025-26 with an enhanced outlay of Rs 700 crores for FY 2025-26 over and above the approved outlay of Rs.9407 crore and as such the total central outlay of PMMSY has been capped at Rs.10107 crore. A proposal to extend the scheme for another five years (2026-27 to 2030-31) has also been submitted with a central outlay of Rs. 13000 Crores. The Scheme aims to address the critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management framework and fishers' welfare. It also intends to address issues like low productivity in Inland aquaculture, disease, sustainability of marine fisheries, sanitary and Phyto-sanitary matters that impact the competitiveness of India's exports.

1.5 From the FY 2023-24, a sub scheme under PMMSY namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) is being implemented for a period of

four years i.e. from 2023-24 to 2026-27, with an aim to formalize the fisheries sector, improved access to finance, risk mitigation, and enhanced value-chain integration. The total estimated outlay of PM-MKSSY is Rs 6000 crore, of which Rs 3000 crore is funded by the Government of India, comprising external assistance of Rs 1,125 crore from the World Bank, Rs 375 crore from Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), and Rs 1500 crore as counterpart funding under PMMSY. The remaining 3000 crores is expected to be mobilised as investment from private sector beneficiaries.

1.6 The Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) was launched in 2018-19 up to 2022-23. The Implementation period of FIDF has been extended for another 3 years i.e. from 2023-24 to 2025-26. FIDF intends to address the gaps in fisheries infrastructure with a total corpus of Rs. 7522.48 crore by providing concessional finance/loans to the Eligible Entities (EEs), including State Governments/UT Administrations and State entities for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities. The concessional finance under FIDF is provided by the Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs) namely.

- a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- b) National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and
- c) All Scheduled Banks.

CHAPTER – II

A. ANALYSIS OF DEMAND NO. 43

(i) Allocations and Expenditure

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Allocation proposed by the Dept	Allocation by the M/o Finance at BE	Percentage increase at BE stage over the previous FY	Allocation by the M/o Finance at RE	Expenditure made by the Dept	Shortfall	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
2022-23	2186.73	2118.47	73%	1624.18	1365.24	258.94	84.06%
2023-24	2688.47	2248.77	6%	1701.00	1336.18	364.82	78.55%
2024-25	2755.03	2616.44	16%	1666.47	1130.49	535.98	67.84%
2025-26	3451.72	2703.67	3%	1732.81	1072.90*	659.91*	61.92%
2026-27	3498.75	2761.80	2%				

*Funds approved as on 20.01.2026

2.1 There has been a marginal increase of only 2% in the Budget allocation of the Department for the FY 2026-27 i.e. Rs. 2761.80 Cr. On being asked by the Committee, whether this amount is sufficient enough for the Department, keeping in view the ambitious announcement of integrated development of 500 Reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars and supporting of 200 start-ups in the fisheries sector along with other requirements such the extension of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for another one year i.e. up to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The major part of funds allocated to the Department of Fisheries for the year 2026-27 are towards implementation of schemes for development of fisheries and aquaculture in all the State/UTs. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)-II has been proposed which covers the activity of integrated development of reservoirs, inputs for the Amrit Sarovars and support for start-ups in the fisheries sector. In the past few years, it has been experienced that the pace of fund utilization by various States/UTs and other implementing agencies are a bit slow in the Just-in-time funds procedure as compared to earlier fund released procedures. The funds utilization during the FY 2026-27 will also be reviewed from time-to-time and based on the pace of utilization, the demand for higher allocation shall be raised in the Supplementary Demands for Grants or in Revised Estimates.”

2.2 The budget allocation for the Department of Fisheries i.e. from financial year 2022-23 onwards has been increasing over the years, however, the capacity of the Department to spend the allocated funds has been decreasing continuously, thereby increasing shortfalls over the years. When the Committee asked about the reasons for the same and the measures taken by the Department in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The major part of funds allocated to the Department of Fisheries is towards implementation of schemes for development of fisheries and aquaculture in all the State/UTs. The fisheries developmental schemes are primarily implemented in association with state Governments and UTs on cost sharing basis. Under utilization/shortfalls, there are gaps between fund allocation at Revised Estimate (RE) stage and actual expenditure at the end of the financial year. The reasons responsible for shortfall in utilization of the allocated budget since 2021-22 includes; (i) Notification of alternative funds flow mechanism by the Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance, (ii) Notification of SNA and SPARSH made the fund flow slower, (iii) Delay in preparedness of the States/UTs for adoption of new system of fund flow, (iv) Delay in submission of viable proposals by the States/UTs, (v) Restriction on instalment of central share of 25% of the central share approved under Central Sector proposals, (vi) Slow pace of project implementation by States/UTs (vii) Delay in contribution of state share (viii) Delay in completion of pre-implementation at State/UT level. The fund utilization under PMMSY is directly related to the pace of funds utilization and implementation of the scheme by all the States/UTs. This dependency accumulates the central liability and slows down the output of the activities undertaken by the States/UTs.

The Department of Fisheries has been making persistent efforts for sensitizing the States/UTs for speedy utilization of funds and expedites completion of the approved projects. The efforts being take up by the Department of Fisheries inter-alia include (i) DO letters to the Hon’ble Chief Ministers of all the States/UTs from the Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, (ii) letters to Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs from Secretary, Department of Fisheries, (iii) letters written at the level Joint Secretaries in the Department to the Secretaries/Principal Secretaries, in-charge of Department of Fisheries of all the States/UTs. Besides, several meetings at the level of Secretary and Joint Secretaries, Department of Fisheries in virtual and physical form have been held from time-to-time to review of the physical and financial progresses of the projects taken up under the fisheries development schemes. Additionally, the State Governments and UTs have also been advised to include the fisheries and aquaculture development schemes in the agenda for High Level Review Committees at the State as well as District Levels including the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHAs) for regular review and monitoring to ensure effective and time bound implementation of the fisheries projects and funds utilization.”

2.3 The Committee desire to know the financial as well as policy interventions taken by the Department, so as to ascertain, that all the funds allocated to them at revised estimate stage are utilized completely. The Department in their reply submitted the following:

“Department of Fisheries, Government of India has accorded approval of projects amounting Rs. 21,726 crore with Rs. 9,460 crore under PMMSY during last 5 years and current financial year. Out of the Central share approved an amount of Rs. 6874 crore has been released to all the States/UTs and other implementing agencies. In order to increase the pace of expenditure, Department of Fisheries also relaxed the utilization of unspent funds against any approved activities by the states/UTs under PMMSY. Need-based modifications to activities have been approved in response to requests from the States, and the activities have been restructured to better align with the actual needs and demands of the beneficiaries. The re-allocation of funds under the Mother Sanction has been reviewed periodically, and based on the pace of fund utilization, the central funds have been made available to the States/UTs that have demonstrated good performance. The Department has been working in close coordination with the States and the issues arising (if any) during the course of implementation of the approved project, have been addressed from time to time. As such, better performance in the upcoming days is expected.”

2.4 During the FY 2025-26, only Rs 1072.90 Cr of the total allocated funds i.e. 1732.81 Cr have been utilized till 20.01.2026. On being asked by the Committee, how does the Department plan to spend the remaining amount of funds in the last quarter of the financial year and whether such a spending will be in accordance with the guidelines of Monthly/Quarterly Expenditure plan, the Department submitted the following reply:

“No Monthly/Quarterly Expenditure plan has been received from Ministry of Finance for the FY 2025-26. However, as per the Detailed Demands For Grants, a proposal relates to relaxation of QEP/MEP in the 4th quarter of the FY 2025-26 is being submitted to the Budget Division of the Department for onward submission to the Ministry of Finance for consideration. Out of the total Revised Allocation received i.e. Rs. 1732.81 crore, an amount of Rs. 1500.00 crore have been allocated for implementation of PMMSY and out of this, an amount of Rs. 953.06 crore has been booked by PAO. Out of the Revised Estimates (RE) allocation for the year 2025-26, Rs.1048.75 crore has been released as Mother Sanction to 30 States and Union Territories to facilitate timely implementation and grounding of approved projects. An amount of Rs. 660.45 crore has been utilized by the States/UTs so far and Rs. 388.29 crore is unutilized by most of the States/UTs. Need-based modifications to activities and re-allocation of funds under

the Mother Sanction have been done based on the pace of fund utilization, Further, the Department of Fisheries is monitoring the progress with all the States/UTs and implementing agencies. Several meetings both in physical and virtual form with individual States/UTs have been conducted regularly by the Department to resolve the issues and to expedite the implementation along with the fund's utilization."

2.5 On being asked about the percentage contribution of Fisheries Sector to the National Agricultural GVA and whether the Budget allocated to the Department during the FY 2026-27 is in proportion with the contribution of the fisheries sector to National Economy, the Department submitted the following reply:

"In terms of value, GVA of Fisheries Sector has increased from Rs. 76,487 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.1,75,850 crore (at constant prices) in 2023-24. It is appreciated that fisheries sector contributes 1.09% in the National GVA and 7.43% in Agriculture GVA at constant prices. Following the launch of PMMSY (2020-21), the contribution of fisheries Sector in National GVA has increased from 0.98% (in 2019-20) to 1.09% (in 2023-24) (at constant prices). Similarly, in Agriculture GVA, the contribution of fisheries sector has increased by 13.96% from 6.52% in 2019-20 to 7.43% in 2023-24 (at constant prices)".

2.6 On being asked by the Committee, about the decreasing capacity of the fisheries sector in general and the Department of Fisheries in particular to absorb the allocated funds, even though the average annual growth of the sector has been increasing since 2014-15, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The fisheries sector in India has shown a sustained annual average growth rate of 8.74% for the 10-years period from 2014-15 to 2024-25. However, the fund absorption capacity has not increased at the same pace due to a combination of factors, including procedural and administrative delays in project formulation and approvals at state level, limited implementation and technical capacity at the State/UT level, delays in beneficiary identification and mobilization, and challenges in adopting new technologies, delay in receiving the state matching share and achieving convergence with other schemes, all of which affect the timely utilization of allocated funds".

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

2.7 The data on BE, RE and actual expenditure since 2021-22 as furnished by the Dept is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry	Short fall in actuals vis-a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE	Actuals		
2021-22	2196.00	1000.00	1200.00	1169.14	30.86	97.42%
2022-23	1879.00	1879.00	1410.00	1169.86	240.14	82.96%
2023-24	2357.00	2000.00	1500.00	1148.88	351.12	76.59 %
2024-25	2362.00	2352.00	1500.00	977.28	522.72	65.15%
2025-26	3000.00	2465.00	1500.00	931.37*	568.63*	62.09%
2026-27	2500.00	2500.00				

*As on 31.12.2025

2.8 From the FY 2023-24 to 2026-27, a central sector Sub-scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PM-MKSSY) under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is being implemented with total outlay of Rs 6000 crores. However, during the last three financial years i.e. from 2023-24 to 2025-26, the RE for PMMSY is being reduced to Rs 1500 Cr even though the budget allocations for these FY have increased consistently. On being asked by the Committee, about the reasons for this reduction and whether, such a reduction at RE stage would in turn hamper the effective implementation of PMMSY and PMMKS-SY, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PM-MKSSY) is approved as a Central Sector Component of the PMMSY at an estimated outlay of Rs.6,000 crore with Rs.3,000 crore coming from the Government of India comprises of Rs.1,125 crore from the World Bank loan, Rs.375 crore from the AFD loan and Rs.1500 crore as counterpart funding from the existing allocation of PMMSY Scheme and the remaining Rs.3,000 crore is expected to come in form of investment from the beneficiaries/private sector.

The Department of Fisheries has received the approval of the Sub-scheme nearly after 2 years of the EFC i.e. 8th February, 2024. The Sub-scheme aims at formalization of fisheries sector by of digitalization. Being the first of its kind, development of NFDP and the related modules has taken more time than envisaged. Now the NFDP has become fully functional and over 29 lakh fishers, fish farmers, and other stakeholders registered in the NFDP Several components, including institutional credit facilitation, aquaculture insurance, strengthening of cooperatives, Performance Grant have become active. Till date, more than 29 lakh fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders have registered on NFDP. A total of 2786 primary fisheries cooperatives have been approved for strengthening at a total cost of Rs. 52.93 crores. Under Aquaculture

Insurance, Insurance policies for 491.30 ha have been covered against which 29 beneficiaries covering 98.56 ha have availed the One-Time Incentive (OTI). Further, under the Credit Module, 327 loans have been sanctioned by the banks with loan amount of Rs 15.52 crores. The Department of Fisheries expects improvement in the funds utilization in the subsequent days to get an increase trend in RE”.

2.9 Keeping in view the Budget announcement for the financial Year (FY) 2026-27, wherein, several measures have been announced to enhance fishery exports and harnessing the deep-sea potential of the Country, the Committee, further inquired about the decreasing budget at RE stage since the FY 2022-23 onwards for PMMSY and measures taken by the Department to utilize the total funds allocated for PMMSY. In their reply the Department submitted the following:

“The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is making concerted efforts to ensure optimal and outcome-oriented utilization of allocated funds for effective implementation of its schemes.

Some of the key facts attributed for less expenditure under PMMSY include (i) Notification of alternative funds flow mechanism by DoE (ii) Notification of SNA and SPARSH made the fund flow slower (iii) Restriction in release of central share of 25% against the approved central share for Central Sector proposals (iv) Delay in compilation of pre-implementation activity of SNA/SNA-SPARSH and preparedness of the States/UTs for implementation (v) Slow pace of project implementation by States/UTs (vi) Delay in contribution of state matching share and (vii) Delay in completion of approval process at State/UT level etc.

The Department is actively working towards improving fund utilization, accelerating project implementation, and ensuring efficient disbursement to avoid such reductions in the future. The key measures taken by the Department in this regard are: (i) DO letters to the Hon’ble Chief Ministers of all the States/UTs from the Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, (ii) letters to Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs from Secretary, Department of Fisheries, (iii) letters written at the level of Joint Secretaries in the Department to the Secretaries/Principal Secretaries, in-charge of Department of Fisheries of all the States/UTs. Besides, several meetings at the level of Secretary and Joint Secretaries, Department of Fisheries in virtual and physical form have been held from time-to-time to review the physical and financial progresses of the projects taken up under the fisheries development schemes.

Additionally, the State Governments and UTs have also been advised to include the fisheries and aquaculture development schemes in the agenda for High Level Review Committees at the State as well as District Levels including the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHAs) for regular review and monitoring to ensure effective and time bound implementation of the fisheries projects and funds utilization.”

2.10 On being asked about the current status of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the progress achieved regarding the extension of the scheme as has been recommended by the Committee earlier, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) implemented by the Department of Fisheries with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25). It has further extended by Ministry of Finance with a central outlay of Rs. 700 crore for its implementation till March, 2026.

In consultation with various States/UTs and other stakeholders, Department of Fisheries has formulated the proposal for continuation of PMMSY-II and FIDF-II for next 5 years (2026-27 to FY2030-31) co-terminus with the 16th Finance Commission. A consolidated EFC Memo for PMMSY-II and FIDF-II with the central outlay of Rs. 13000 crore and Rs. 531.00 crore (enhanced allocation) has been circulated for inter-Ministerial consultation. Comments from 15 Ministries has been received so far supporting the continuation of these two schemes. The comments received are suitably incorporated in the EFC Memo. Final Consolidated EFC on PMMSY-II and FIDF-II will be submitted soon after receipt of consent from Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.”

2.11 On being asked by the Committee, about the reasons for underutilization and the consistent decrease in actual expenditure of the Department under PMMSY from the FY 2022-23 onwards leading to increasing shortfall every year, which was 522.72 Cr in the FY 2024-25, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The reasons responsible for increasing in shortfall since 2022-23 includes (i) Notification of alternative funds flow mechanism by DoE, (ii) Notification of SNA and SPARSH made the fund flow slower, (iii) Restriction in release of central share of 25% against the central share approved for central sector proposals, (iv) Slow pace of project implementation by States/UTs, (v) Delay in contribution of state share and (vi) Delay in completion of approval process at State/UT level”.

2.12 When asked by the Committee, as to how does the Department plan to implement successfully all the components of PMMSY and PMMKS-SY if it is not able to completely utilise the funds allocated for the schemes and the steps taken by the Department in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The FY 2025-26 is the terminal year for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The Department has put in place several measures to ensure effective implementation of all components of PMMSY and PMMKS-SY despite challenges in full fund utilisation, including periodic review and rationalisation of activities, need-based

reallocation of funds based on utilisation and performance of States/UTs, flexibility in modifying activities as per local requirements, strengthening of monitoring through digital platforms and field reviews, capacity building of State implementing agencies, and enhanced convergence with other line Departments, which together are aimed at improving fund absorption and achieving intended outcomes under the schemes.

Under PMMKSSY, now the NFDP has become fully functional and over 29 lakh fishers, fish farmers, and other stakeholders registered in the NFDP. A total of 2786 primary fisheries cooperatives have been approved for strengthening at a total cost of Rs. 52.93 crores. Under Aquaculture Insurance, Insurance policies for 491.30 ha has been covered against which 29 beneficiaries covering 98.56 ha have availed the One-Time Incentive (OTI). Further, under the Credit Module, 327 loans have been sanctioned by the banks with loan amount of Rs 15.52 crores. The Department is closely working with the stakeholders, intermediary agencies, State/UT Governments for mobilization of applications. Further, this Department is conducting various camps, trainings, workshops and awareness programme for effective implementation of the Scheme.”

2.13 Under PMMSY, during the FY 2025-26, the Department spent Rs 931.37 Crores till 31.12.2025, out of the allocated 1500 crores. When asked by the Committee, about the Department’s plan to spend the remaining amount of funds in the last quarter of the FY, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Out of the total Revised Allocation received i.e. Rs. 1732.81 crore, an amount of Rs. 1500.00 crore has been allocated for implementation of PMMSY. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 953.06 crore has been booked by PAO, however the IFD concurrence is Rs. 1446 crore. Out of the Revised Estimates (RE) allocation for the year, Rs.1048.75 crore has been released as Mother Sanction to 30 States and Union Territories to facilitate timely implementation and grounding of approved projects and out of this an amount of Rs. 660.45 crore has been utilized till dated by the States/UTs. Need-based modifications to activities and re-allocation of funds under the Mother Sanction have been done based on the assessment of pace of fund utilization of the funds by the States/UTs. Further, the Department of Fisheries is monitoring the progress with all the States/UTs and implementing agencies and towards this end, meeting in both physical and virtual form with individual States/UTs have been conducted by the Department to expedite the implementation along with the fund’s utilization in the last quarter of the financial year.”

2.14 When asked by the Committee about the road map for setting up of 500 Amrit Sarovar’s and plan for spending the budget allocated to it as has been announced in

the current budget proposal and whether there are any specific State/ District targets set for setting up the same, the Department submitted the following reply:

“India is blessed with huge untapped reservoir fisheries. The Department during the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) under the ongoing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana has sanctioned Project Proposals at a total outlay of Rs.1666.35 crore involving central share of Rs.584.54 crores for installation of 56452 Cages in major Reservoirs across 21 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The proposal for setting up 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovar’s in the fisheries sector, as announced in the current Budget, will be implemented in a mission-mode approach with convergence under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana-II (PMMSY-II) and in coordination with the broader Mission Amrit Sarovar initiative. The action plan along with timeline for implementation has been finalized.

The Department will undertake (i) identification of suitable water bodies in consultation with States/UTs; (ii) scientific renovation, rejuvenation, and fisheries-based development of selected ponds/tanks; (iii) integration of aquaculture activities including quality seed stocking, feed support, aeration, and biosecurity measures; and (iv) development of value chain infrastructure, harvesting, and marketing linkages.”

(iii) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

2.15 The data on BE, RE and actual expenditure since 2022-23 as furnished by the Dept is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry Actuals	Short fall in actuals vis- a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE			
2022-23	19	19	13	13	00	100%
2023-24	19	19	14.80	14.80	00	100%
2024-25	19	16.78	11.50	11.50	00	100%
2025-26	18.50	18.00	14.00	9.40*	4.6*	
2026-27		14.55				

***31.12.2025**

2.16 On being asked by the Committee. If the Department has taken up the issue of reduction of allocated funds at RE stage for National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) with the M/o Finance, even though NFDB has been able to utilize 100% of the funds allocated from the FY 2022-23 onwards, the Department submitted the following reply:

“During RE stage, the funds of Department of Fisheries have been reduced significantly by Ministry of Finance, accordingly, the allocation of funds to NFDB also reduced proportionally”.

2.17 When asked by the Committee, that, during the current financial year i.e. 2025-26, NFDB has been able to spend only Rs 9.40 Cr of the total allocated funds of Rs 14 Cr at RE stage and how does NFDB plan to utilize the remaining amount in this last quarter of the financial year, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The total amount of funds released to NFDB under Salary & General is Rs.9.40 Crore during the F.Y 2025-26. The utilization of funds and activities implemented has been reviewed at highest level at the Department. It is informed that NFDB shall submit the Utilization Certificate of Rs.9.40 Crores by 10.02.2026 and remaining funds shall be released to meet the committed liability of Rs.5.00 Crores along with other mandatory requirements during the current financial year”.

2.18 When asked by the Committee, if the Department has received any requests to set up regional offices of National Fishery Development Board (NFDB) in other parts of the Country and whether setting up of such offices in other parts of the country help in the development of Inland fisheries in a more comprehensive way and promote regional development, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department has received representations from some State Governments like Government of Haryana, Kerala, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh requesting the setting up of regional offices of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in their respective states to facilitate better coordination and faster implementation of fisheries development programmes in their states. Regional offices would enable closer interaction with State Fisheries Departments, Fish Farmers’ Producer Organizations (FFPOs), cooperatives, and other stakeholders, monitoring of schemes and programme implemented by the Government, ensuring more responsive and context-specific interventions. Further, regional presence would facilitate regular training programmes, demonstrations, and technology dissemination, thereby enhancing productivity and adoption of best management practices.”

2.19 On being asked by the Committee, about the current status of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) office to be opened in Patna, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Based on the representations received from the Government of Bihar, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has examined the feasibility of establishing an NFDB Regional Centre at Patna. As a follow up action, the Senior Executive Director visited Patna twice and held discussions with the Additional Chief Secretary (Fisheries) and the Director of Fisheries, Government of Bihar, to explore the possibility of setting up the proposed Regional Centre at Patna, Bihar. The Director of Fisheries, Government of Bihar, has allotted vacant space measuring 1,020 sq. ft. at the Fisheries Training and Research Centre (FTRC), Mithapur, Patna, for the establishment and functioning of the proposed Regional Office. The State Government has also expressed willingness to allot approximately five acres of land for establishing a permanent NFDB Regional Centre at Patna.

Based on these developments, NFDB has prepared a detailed project proposal amounting to ₹10 crores, which includes cost estimates for establishing technology demonstration units as well as administrative and support infrastructure.”

2.20 The Committee, further asked, if any proposal for setting up of regional center of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in Nagpur has been received from the State of Maharashtra and, if not, whether the Department plans to propose setting up of such regional center in Nagpur, to the State Government of Maharashtra, keeping in view the centrality of Nagpur and development of Inland fisheries in the region, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Till date, no such proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra. However, Nagpur is well connected with the NFDB Headquarters, Hyderabad. Moreover, most parts of Maharashtra are in close proximity to the Headquarters a neighboring state. Further, Maharashtra has several Central institutes such as FSI, ICAR-CIFE, Fisheries Colleges, and KVKs. These institutes are actively coordinating with the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and NFDB for the implementation of Government of India schemes and regular intervention of the fishery’s developmental activities in the state of Maharashtra.”

2.21 When asked by the Committee, about the progress in increasing current per capita fish consumption in the country and which social media/Institutions are being used by the Department so as to increase awareness about schemes and domestic consumption of fish in the country and the budget earmarked for the same, the Department submitted the following reply:

“As per the recent study report, Current per capita fish consumption in the Country is 12-13 kg. NFDB has taken several steps to enhance the domestic fish consumption which is an important source of cheap protein, which includes:

- Aiming to enhance “Domestic fish consumption” NFDB initiated a contest by inviting creative taglines/slogans using social media platform with an objective to use these contents in hoardings, posters, jingles, advertisements etc. as part of promotional campaigns through social media, digital, print and electronic media on fish consumption and create awareness among the target stakeholders of PMMSY and public.*
- Created jingles of 15 Nos in vernacular languages on domestic fish consumption and broadcasted through Radio Stations such as RED FM 93.5 & Radio City 91.1 FM.*
- NFDB has taken several steps to popularize fish consumption as nutritious healthy protein food among public through digital media and in the form of posters, banners, branding during conferences, expos, and exhibition. Posters have been frequently placed in important public places like Collectorates, Government Offices, Fisheries Offices, Integrated Markets, Fish Markets, Cooperative Societies, etc., through the respective States/UTs.*
- Promotion of domestic fish consumption etc. Organized workshops /seminars with an emphasis on fish nutrition & its value through programs such as Poshan Maha, Anadata Devo Bhava and 75 years Azadhi Ka Amruth Mahotsav celebrations.*
- Organize fish food festivals & fish melas of 35 Nos to attract more consumers and popularize fish sales. Participated in the National programs of World Food India to create awareness on fish and its nutritive values targeting domestic fish consumption.*
- Since past 5 years (2020-21 to 2025-26) organized various outreach programs reaching out to more than 3.78 crore public, which includes fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders. The awareness created among public, has enhanced per capita consumption of fish by the consumers from 5 kg to 12-13 kg per annum thereby ensuring food and nutritional security.*
- Organized fish food festivals & fish melas were conducted in 48 locations across states and institutions, to promote domestic consumption of fish, shrimp, and fish-related products.*
- A part from the above outreach activities under PMMSY Government is promoting domestic fish consumption through establishing domestic fish markets, World class standard markets, retail units, fish kiosks, State specific activities such as Matsya Vihar & Matsya Aahar and assisting PCM boxes, cold storages, ice boxes to overcome post-harvest losses etc. The above-mentioned efforts have contributed in enhancing the per capita fish consumption up to 12-13 kg”.*

(iv) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

2.22 The data on BE, RE and actuals incurred since 2021-22 under the scheme Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund as furnished by the Department is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry	Short fall in actuals vis- a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE	Actuals		
2021-22	25	15	10	10	00	100%
2022-23	25	12	12	12	00	100%
2023-24	25	25	25	24.40	.06	97.6%
2024-25	50	30	25	18.25	6.75	73%
2025-26	75	30	30	14.63*		
2026-27		30				

* **N.B. Funds sanctioned on 31.12.25**

2.23 When asked by the Committee about the measures envisaged by the Department to completely utilize the funds allocated for FIDF during the current financial year as three quarters of the FY 2025-26 are over, however, the Department is able to utilise only Rs 14.63 crore of the allocated funds as on 31.12.2025, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Central Nodal Agency (CAN) mode is under implementation, only 25% can be released at a time in the CNA account. As on date an amount of Rs. 21.88 crore has been released to NABARD and the utilization certificate also received recently against the last fund released out of the funds earmarked in RE- 2025 of Rs. 30 crore. Now the file is being processed to release the last installment to NABARD in the current financial year.”

2.24 On being asked about the reasons for underutilization, as during the FY 2024-25, only Rs 18.25 Cr have been utilized out of the total allocated Rs 25 Crore under FIDF leading to a shortfall of Rs 6.75 Crores, the Department submitted the following reply:

“As per the guidelines of Central Nodal Agency (CAN), only 25% of funds are allowed to be released at a time in the CNA account. Due to non-receipt of UCs from NABARD, Department could not release the last installment during last financial year 2024-25.”

2.25 When asked by the Committee, whether, the Department has pursued with the M/o Finance regarding the allocation for FIDF being reduced to Rs 30 crores at BE stage, during the FY 2025-26, as against the allocation proposed by the Department which was Rs 75 crores, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Department of Fisheries, Government of India accorded approvals Of total 238 projects with total outlay of Rs.6781.64 crore, with projects cost eligible for interest Rs.4605.58 crore. Out of this, 150 were Govt. Projects amounting to Rs. 5931.28 Crore and 88 Private Projects at total projects cost of Rs. 850.51 Crores. Project cost eligible for interest subvention is Rs. 4538.37 crore. Anticipating the disbursement amount of another Rs. 1200 crore by NABARD during the FY 2026-27 against sanctioned loans and Estimated disbursement by NLEs the amount of Rs. 75 crore was proposed. However, Ministry of Finance restricted the funds at Rs. 30 crore.”

(v) Assistance to Fisheries Institutes

2.26 Data on BE, RE and actuals incurred from 2021-22 to 2026-27 under Assistance to Fisheries Institutes as furnished by the Department is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocations proposed	Allocations given by M/o Finance		Actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry Actuals	Short fall in actuals vis- a- vis RE	Utilisation in percent terms w.r.t RE
		BE	RE			
2021-22	296.52	149.77	125.77	112.94	12.83	89.79
2022-23	230.60	175.34	160.58	144.06	16.52	89.71
2023-24	248.93	169.24	125.08	112.46	12.62	89.91
2024-25	281.33	143.02	84.77	87.65		
2025-26	309.57	142.02	125.73	84.71*		
2026-27		153.25				

*as on 31.12.2025

2.27 The allocations proposed by the Department have been consistently increasing from the FY 2022-23 onwards, however, the budgetary estimates have been almost cut down to half the amount proposed by the Department. When asked by the Committee, whether the Department has pursued this issue with the M/o Finance keeping in view the importance of Fishery Institutes in shaping the Fishery Sector of the Country, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The RE allocation was reduces significantly due to less expenditure made by the Fisheries Institutes. Out of the total funds allocated to Assistance to Fisheries Institutes, more than 81% of the funds earmarked to two institutes namely Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET). 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 only. Additionally, the repair and maintenance work could not be completed due to the lack of clearance from DG Shipping via notification regarding Registration, Survey and Certification of FSI Vessels. The requirement of funds has been apprised Ministry of Finance during the RE meeting in October, 2025”.

2.28 On being asked about the reasons for underutilization of funds, as during the FY 2025-26, only Rs 84.71 Cr have been spent out of the total allocated Rs 125.73 Cr till 31.12.2025, the Department submitted that the reasons for less expenditure are similar to the reasons explained at 2.27 above.

2.29 When asked by the Committee, about the sanctioned staff strength and current vacancy status in all the Fishery Institutes, Autonomous Body and Regulatory Authority under the purview of the Department of Fisheries, GOI along with the reasons for not filling up of any such vacancies, the Department submitted the following reply:

“As on date, the overall sanctioned strength in the Department of Fisheries, including Headquarters, its four Subordinate Offices/Institutes and two Autonomous/Regulatory Bodies, is 1,298 posts, against which 627 posts are filled and 671 posts are vacant.

The four Subordinate Offices/Institutes under the Department are Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai; Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi; National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology & Training (NIFPHATT), Kochi; and Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bengaluru. The Autonomous Body and Regulatory Authority under the Department are National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad and Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai.

At Headquarters, against a sanctioned strength of 93 posts, 74 posts are filled and 19 posts are vacant. Vacancies pertain to various sanctioned posts across different cadres. Recruitment agencies such as UPSC and SSC require prescribed processing time to fill up posts under their mandate. The Department has also been in continuous consultation with DoPT for filling up the encadred CSS posts. Vacancy circulars inviting applications for certain deputation posts, including Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries) and Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries Harbour), have been issued recently. The Department has been making sustained efforts to fill up the vacant posts in accordance with the applicable recruitment rules.

In respect of the Subordinate Offices, Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai has a sanctioned strength of 680 posts, against which 267 posts are filled and 413 posts are vacant. Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi has a sanctioned strength of 279 posts, against which 134 posts are filled and 145 posts are vacant. National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology & Training (NIFPHATT), Kochi has a sanctioned strength of 135 posts, against which 74 posts are filled and 61 posts are vacant. Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bengaluru has a sanctioned strength of 47 posts, against which 36 posts are filled and 11 posts are vacant.

In respect of the Autonomous Body and Regulatory Authority, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad has a sanctioned strength of 43 posts, against which 29 posts are filled and 14 posts are vacant, and Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai has a sanctioned strength of 21 posts, against which 13 posts are filled and 8 posts are vacant.

In respect of the Subordinate Offices/Institutes, the vacancies have primarily arisen due to retirement, promotion, transfer and completion of deputation tenure of officials. A significant number of posts are required to be filled through direct recruitment by UPSC/SSC and through Departmental Promotion Committees, which involve prescribed procedural timelines. Further, several posts in these institutes are technical and specialized in nature, requiring specific qualifications and experience, which limits the availability of eligible candidates. Recruitment proposals have been initiated and are at various stages of processing in accordance with the applicable Recruitment Rules.

In respect of the Autonomous Body and Regulatory Authority, vacancies exist mainly in posts to be filled through direct recruitment or deputation as per their respective Recruitment Rules. The time taken in completing the selection process, receipt of suitable applications for deputation posts and adherence to statutory procedures have contributed to the existing vacancies. The concerned organizations have initiated necessary recruitment action and the vacancy position is being periodically reviewed to ensure filling up of posts in a phased manner as per prescribed norms.

The Department is closely monitoring the vacancy position and has taken steps to expedite recruitment, including timely submission of requisitions to recruiting agencies, convening DPCs, filling up deputation posts and rationalizing manpower deployment wherever feasible. Efforts are being made to fill the vacant posts in a phased manner, subject to adherence to prescribed recruitment rules.”

B. BUDGET AND CASH MANAGEMENT SCHEME

2.30 On being asked by the Committee to give details with respect to the quarter-wise spending of the total funds allocated to the Department in percentage terms during each of the financial years i.e. from 2022-23 up to 2026-27, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The quarter-wise spending in percentage terms of total funds during 2022-23 and 2025-26 are as below:

(Rs. in crore)

FY	Allocation	Quarter1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
2022-23	1496.09	38.69	99.66	221.79	1005.10
2023-24	1701.00	18.39	333.37	419.06	565.36
2024-25	1666.47	44.99	524.74	352.29	44.30
2025-26	1732.95	260.19	251.56	457.25	158.31”

2.31 When asked by the Committee, whether the quarter wise spending of the Department since 2022-23 is in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The quarterly release of funds to the States/UTs and other implementing agencies are subject to the compliance of the SNA, SNA-SPARSH, CAN, C-SNA/TSA and other related guidelines/norms like GFR by the States/UTs. The reasons for slow pace of utilization of funds since 2022-23 have been explained in reply to point-8 above.”

2.32 On being asked by the Committee about details of SNA-SPARSH procedure, the Department submitted as under:

“The SNA–SPARSH procedure is the Just-in-time fund flow and financial management mechanism adopted for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), through integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). Under this system, each State/UT opened an e-kuber account in RBI and the RBI account mapped with the e-kuber account of the Department of Fisheries. Different State Linked Schemes (SLS) created by the respective States/UTs based on the funding pattern required. After completion of the mapping procedure on PFMS and integration with the SNA/e-Kuber system, a Mother Sanction is issued by the Ministry allocating a tentative amount to the States/UTs. Based on this allocation and approved Annual Action Plans, the States/UTs further distribute funds to districts as per demand and project approvals. Expenditure bills generated at the district level are routed through the State Treasury system, wherein the requisite State matching share is added as per the funding pattern. The consolidated claims are then processed and reflected through PFMS, ensuring proper reconciliation and compliance with the SNA–SPARSH fund flow mechanism up to the Central level. Finally, the funds released to the intended beneficiaries through RBI.”

2.33 When asked about the ratio of budget allocation for Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and North Eastern Areas, the Department submitted the following:

“Allocation of funds for Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and North Eastern States are 8.6%, 16.6% and 10% respectively against the annual budget allocated under Schemes implemented by the Department”.

C. STATUS OF UTILISATION CERTIFICATES

2.34 With regard to the data on pendency of Utilisation Certificates under PMMSY for the financial years 2020-21 to 2025-26, the reasons for such pendency which has seen consistent increase over the years and the steps taken to address this issue, the Department submitted the following reply:

“(Rs.in crore)

S. No	Status of Pending Utilization Certificates under PMMSY- All States/UTs	PMMSY					
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
		13.47	14.17	37.21	58.06	103.69	660.45*

**Funds utilized by States/UTs out of the Mother Sanction issued in the FY 2025-26*

“As stated earlier, the pace of utilization of funds got slowed down because of changes in accounts procedure and funds release procedures, non-release of state share in time. Now, the Just in time revised procedure SNA-SPARSH is implemented in all the States/UTs and the funds reached directly to the intended beneficiaries through the States Governments. Hence, submission of UCs is not mandatory as per Ministry of Finance to get the next instalment. However, the matter has been taken up at various levels including the Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries of States/UTs for timely release of State matching share; for ensuring SNA-SPARSH compliance and for expediting the utilization of available funds. 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 in the form of mother Sanction.

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 in a decreasing trend. The Department is continuing its efforts through periodic review meetings at different levels for speedy utilization of the central funds.”

2.35 When asked by the Committee, the reasons for pendency of Utilisation Certificates during the FY 2020-21 and 21-22, for the UT of Lakshadweep, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Gol has approved the proposals under the PMMSY from the UT of Lakshadweep at a total project cost of Rs.67.46 crore with a central share of Rs.44.40 crore from 2020-21 to 2024-25 under PMMSY and released central fund of Rs. 14.47 crore during the 2020-21 and 2021-22. The UT Administration of

Lakshadweep has submitted a utilization certificate for Rs. 11.06 crore to date and has informed that the balance of Rs. 3.19 crore will be submitted by the end of this financial year.”

2.36 On being asked about measures taken by the Department to bring down the pendency of Utilization Certificates by the States/UTs, the Department gave the following reply:

“The pace of utilization of funds got slowed down because of changes in accounts procedure and funds release procedures, non-release of state share in time. Now, the Just in time revised procedure SNA-SPARSH is implemented in all the States/UTs and the funds reached directly to the intended beneficiaries through the States Governments. Hence, submission of UCs is not mandatory as per Ministry of Finance to get the next instalment. However, the matter has been taken up at various levels including the Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries of States/UTs for timely release of State matching share; for ensuring SNA-SPARSH compliance and for expediting the utilization of available funds. Secretary (DoF) reviewing with all the States where the pace of implementation and funds utilization is slow physically to expedite the implementation of the scheme and to minimize the pendency of un-utilized funds in the form of mother Sanction.

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 in a decreasing trend. The Department is continuing its efforts through periodic review meetings at different levels for speedy utilization of the central funds.”

D. ALLOCATIONS TO NORTH EASTERN STATES

2.37 Data on budget allocation and expenditure with respect to north eastern states since 2022-23 as furnished by the Department is stated below:

(Rs. in crore)

State/UT	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26			2026-27
	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE
NER States	188.50	146.45	101.54	200.66	150.5	201.66	235.97	172.00	113.07	255.00	146.00	144.76	255.00

2.38 During the Financial year 2024-25, the actual expenditure for North Eastern Areas of the Country was only Rs. 113.07 crores against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 172 crores. When asked by the Committee about the reasons for such underutilization, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The underutilization of actual expenditure for North Eastern Areas during the year 2024-25 was due to non-utilization of funds by the NER States against the Mother Sanction issued.”

E. TRIBAL SUB PLAN (TSP)

2.39 On being asked about the data on fund allocation under Tribal Sub Plan in the flagship scheme PMMSY and expenditure incurred since 2022-23 to 2026-27, the Department submitted the following reply:

(Rs. in crore)

Tribal Sub Plan	Financial year	Total Budget Allocation	Funds Earmarked (BE) for TSP	% of total Budget Allocation	Funds Earmarked (RE) for TSP	% of total RE Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2022-23	1879.00	171.50	9.12	127.78	9.06	103.19	24.59
	2023-24	2000.00	182.56	9.12	136.42	9.09	133.91	2.51
	2024-25	2352.00	235.97	10.03	172.00	11.46	113.07	58.93
	2025-26	2465.00	255.00	10.34	146.00	9.73	144.76	-
	2026-27	2500.00	255.00					

2.40 When asked by the Committee, about the reasons for any surrender of funds under Tribal Sub Plan during the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following reply:

“There is no significant surrender of funds under the TSP head of PMMSY since 2022-23 except the FY 2024-25 due to non-utilization of funds by the States/UTs against the Mother Sanction issued”.

2.40 During the Financial year 2024-25, under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), the Department has surrendered funds to the tune of Rs. 58.93 crores. What is the reason for this surrender of funds and what measures has the Department taken in this regard?

“The surrender of funds under the TSP head of PMMSY during the FY 2024-25 was due to non-utilization of funds by the States/UTs against the Mother Sanction issued.

Further, Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) is a major, scheme implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for a period of five-year (2024-2029) for fostering holistic development in tribal-majority villages. It covers over 63,000 villages, aiming to bridge gaps in health, education, and infrastructure through 25 interventions across 17 Ministries including Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.”

2.41 The Department submitted the following data with regard to financial performance of TSP under the schemes PMMSY and FIDF respectively for the financial years 2022-23 up to 2025-26:

(Rs in crore)

Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)	Year	PMMSY (RE)	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered	FIDF (RE)	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2022-23	1410.00	171.50	127.78	103.19	24.59	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2023-24	1500.00	182.56	136.42	133.91	2.51	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2024-25	1500.00	214.69	188.50	186.70	1.80	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2025-26	1500.00	246.00	218.90	217.84	-	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2026-27	2500.00 (BE)	227.00				30.00 (BE)	0.00			

2.42 On being asked about the State/UT wise details of allocations under TSP component for PMMSY and FIDF schemes being implemented by the Department for the financial years 2022-23 up to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Under the FIDF, the Department of Fisheries releases funds to NABARD to meet the inter subvention. Whereas under PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries releases the funds to the state Governments and UT under the appropriate head of accounts maintained in the budget including TSP. State/UT-wise details of funds approved under TSP component under PMMSY being implemented by the Department of Fisheries for the financial years 2022-23 up to 2025-26 are furnished below:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No	Name of the State/UT	PMMSY			
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	205.00	300.00	200.00
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2442.38	1237.50	1621.14	1354.31
4	Assam	471.52	793.2935	750.00	750.00
5	Bihar	0.00	173.74	200.00	57.00
6	Chhattisgarh	1242.32	1865.41	1500.00	750.00
7	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
10	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	2366.67
11	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	149.28	46.76	0.00	220.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir	38.62	18.88	28.90	10.00
14	Jharkhand	372.98	549.46	1000.00	220.00

15	Karnataka	300.00	881.82	1000.00	1000.00
16	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	1002.00
17	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Madhya Pradesh	235.78	1139.02	2558.99	2650.97
19	Maharashtra	300.00	714.62	0.00	500.00
20	Manipur	269.28	1000.00	700.00	500.00
21	Meghalaya	659.07	1172.00	1000.00	2000.00
22	Mizoram	694.93	717.76	1730.94	1537.39
23	Nagaland	1227.80	1665.63	1668.74	1584.51
24	Odisha	200.00	69.89	300.00	900.00
25	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
28	Sikkim	522.52	0.00	150.00	1102.07
29	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	300.00	1000.00
30	Telangana	0.00	0.00	300.00	84.80
31	Tripura	455.95	455.95	300.00	500.00
32	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Uttarakhand	307.97	339.97	336.48	286.02
34	West Bengal	208.22	0.00	0.00	85.44
35	Ladakh	218.55	162.50	490.44	0.00
36	NFDB/misc	0.00	7.50	834.85	522.20
	Total	10319.89	13391.35	17368.24	21784.00"

2.43 According to the Census data (2011), the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and UT of Lakshadweep have tribal population of 68.8 %, 30.6%, 26.2% and 94.8% respectively. However, the funds approved by the Department of Fisheries under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) component of PMMSY for these States/UTs have been decreasing substantially over the years with Lakshadweep having 'Nil' funds approved. When asked by the Committee about the reasons for this decrease, the Department submitted the following reply:

"Department of Fisheries, Government of India considered the proposals received from various States/UTs in the form of Annual Action Plan under PMMSY. An amount of Rs. 53.31 crore, Rs. 59.58 crore and 26.04 crore has been approved to Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand respectively under PMMSY. Under PMMSY scheme, the Department has focused on development of fisheries in the UT of Lakshadweep. Under the scheme, the Department has approved various projects for the development of livelihood of the tribal communities in the UT. Under the TSP of PMMSY, components such as: (i) 750 units of Establishment of Seaweed culture Monoline/rafts, (ii) 3 No. of Backyard Ornamental fish Rearing unit (both Marine and Fresh water) (iii) 19 units for promotion of Recreational fisheries, (iv) 6 no. for construction of cold storage /Ice plants (v) 24 three wheeler with ice box for fish vending (vi) 110 number of motorcycle with ice box (vii) 4 no. for construction of fish kiosks (viii) 3 number of fish value added enterprises (ix) 16 for support for acquisition of Deep Sea fishing vessels (x) 10 number of Sagar Mitras (xi) 502 number of Communication and Tracking devices (xii) 100 numbers of Support for providing safety

kits for fishermen of Traditional and motorized fishing vessels (xiii) 50 number of providing replacement boats and nets for traditional fishermen has been approved for the last five years. All the above activities are approved for Scheduled tribe beneficiaries only.”

2.44 According to Census 2011, UT of Lakshadweep has Tribal population of 94.8%. However, the Committee during their study visit to Lakshadweep in January, 2026 observed that fisheries/deep sea fishing in lakshadweep is almost negligible. Since, UTs are controlled by the Center, when asked by the Committee about the reasons for the same and the policy initiatives envisaged by the Department in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Pole and line fishing dominates Lakshadweep's tuna sector, with production growing from around 11,748 MT to 18,135 MT in 2025 with the support from DoF Gol and UT schemes. These efforts transitioned single-day trips to multi-day operations, enhanced fish landings by harvesting of untapped potential. Infrastructure like ice plants and FADs (fish aggregating devices) have further boosted the tuna yields.

The Department of Fisheries, Gol under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has approved proposals of Lakshadweep Administration at a cost of Rs.62.45 crores with a central share of Rs.44.21 crores for implementation of various activities including 16 units of Deep-Sea fishing vessels for promoting tuna fishing. This scales multi-day deep-sea operations to distant grounds, sustaining pole-and-line while enabling exports. Besides 8 Fish Aggregating Device (FADS) has approved for deployment of in Lakshadweep at a cost of Rs.1.25 crore.

Besides other activities also approved under PMMSY for development of Fisheries and mariculture in the UT such as Establishment of Seaweed culture monolines/rafts, backyard ornamental fish rearing units, promotion of recreational fisheries, construction of cold storage/ice plants, three-wheeler with ice box for fish vending, construction of fish kiosks of aquarium/ornamental fish, MSC Certification (Tuna hatchery), Fish Value Add Enterprises Units among others.

In addition, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has organized Fisheries Investors' Meet at Bangaram Island on 13th November, 2025 with the objective to promote investment opportunities for development of fisheries activities in the island thereby creating livelihood for local communities and fisher folk.

Recently, the Government of India has launched 'Access Pass' for fishermen fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) promoting deep sea fishing activities. Additionally, Seaweed Cluster has been notified by Gol in UT of Lakshadweep for development of mariculture activities in the island.”

2.45 On being asked by the Committee, whether funds allocated for TSP under various schemes of the Department have ever been diverted and spent under other

heads during the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following reply:

“No funds allocated under TSP under PMMSY since 2022-23 has been diverted and spent under other heads.”

F. SCHEDULED CASTES SUB-PLAN (SCSP)

2.46 The data on fund allocation under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and expenditure incurred since 2022-23 up to 2025-26 as submitted by the Department is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)	Financial year	Total Budget Allocation (BE)	Funds Earmarked (BE) for SCSP	% of total Budget Allocation	Funds Earmarked (RE) for SCSP	% of total Budget Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2022-23	1879.00	313.00	16.65	236.81	16.8	189.83	46.98
	2023-24	2000.00	336.16	16.80	251.95	16.79	185.8	66.15
	2024-25	2352.00	395.32	16.80	250.00	16.66	108.11	141.89
	2025-26	2465.00	415.00	16.83	164.63	10.97	164.13	--
	2026-27	2500.00	426.00	17.04				

2.47 When asked by the Committee, about the reasons for any surrender of funds under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan during the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following reply:

“PMMSY is a demand driven scheme. The surrender of funds under the SCSP head of PMMSY since 2022-23 to 2025-26 was due to non-receipt of sufficient proposals from the States/UTs under SCSP. Further, the PMMSY is in the final phase of its tenure, and the proposals approved in earlier years have already been largely utilized by the States/UTs. No Annual Action Plans for 2025–26 have been approved under beneficiary-oriented activities, as the Ministry of Finance has accorded only a limited extension of PMMSY for implementation during 2025–26 with a central outlay of ₹700 crore, restricted to the execution of mandatory activities.”

2.48 Under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), during the financial year 2024-25, funds to the tune of Rs 141.89 crores have been surrendered by the Department. When asked by the Committee, about the reasons for the surrender and the measures taken by the Department in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The surrendered of funds under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) during the year 2024-25 was due to non-utilization of funds by the States/UTs against the Mother Sanction issued. 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 the 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.”*

2.49 The data on BE, RE and actuals of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) under the schemes PMMSY and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) since 2022-23 to 2025-26 as furnished by the Department is given below:

“(Rs. in crore)

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)	Year	PMMSY (BE)	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered	FIDF	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Surrendered
	2022-23	1879.00	313.00	233.81	189.83	43.98	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2023-24	2000.00	336.16	210.40	185.17	24.60	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2024-25	2352.00	395.32	250.00	108.11	141.89	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2025-26	2465.00	415.00	164.63	164.13*	--	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2026-27	2500.00	426.00				30.00	0.00			

****Funds approved (MS) as on 31.01.2026”***

2.50 On being asked about the State/UT wise details of allocations under SCSP component for PMMSY and FIDF schemes being implemented by the Department for the financial years 2022-23 up to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Under the FIDF, the Department of Fisheries releases funds to NABARD to meet the inter subvention. Whereas under PMMSY, the Department of Fisheries releases the funds to the state Governments and UT under the appropriate head of accounts maintained in the budget including SCSP. State/UT-wise details of funds approved under SCSP component for PMMSY being implemented by the Department of Fisheries for the financial years 2022-23 up to 2025-26 are furnished below”:

S.No	Name of the State/UT	PMMSY			
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	6000.00	2095.00	500.00	200.00
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Assam	442.31	2959.13	0.00	650.00
5	Bihar	0.00	643.49	500.00	447.00
6	Chhattisgarh	284.67	439.29	1000.00	1000.00
7	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
10	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	2366.67
11	Haryana	622.85	2289.50	400.00	1000.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	250.70	125.33	0.00	440.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir	100.00	79.39	206.75	100.00
14	Jharkhand	159.00	929.47	500.00	930.00
15	Karnataka	500.00	832.82	1000.00	1000.00
16	Kerala	1859.11	901.34	0.00	1002.00
17	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Madhya Pradesh	154.49	778.54	1766.51	1104.82
19	Maharashtra	2284.40	2096.46	0.00	3200.00
20	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Odisha	1800.00	29.08	700.00	600.00
25	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Punjab	134.96	52.48	150.00	100.00
27	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
28	Sikkim	0.00	33.96	984.85	0.00
29	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1252.00	500.00	1000.00
30	Telangana	0.00	0.00	700.00	169.60
31	Tripura	201.74	1252.80	200.00	300.00
32	Uttar Pradesh	273.72	432.38	2214.08	368.44
33	Uttarakhand	1233.62	295.20	393.62	463.79
34	West Bengal	1350.64	0.00	0.00	170.88
37	NFDB+CS	1000.00	1000.00	500.00	0.00
	Total	18652.21	18517.66	10811.30	16413.20”

2.51 According to Census data (2011), the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu have Scheduled Castes population of 31.9%, 25.2%, 23.5%, 20.7%, 20.2% and 20% respectively. However, the funds approved by the Department of Fisheries under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)

component of PMMSY for these States have been either decreasing substantially over the years or the amount of funds approved is very low. When asked by the Committee about the reasons for this decrease, the Department submitted the following reply:

“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. Based on the proposals received, an amount of Rs. 3.37 crore, Rs. 8.57 crore, Rs. 13.50 crore, 50.94 crore, Rs. 36.84 crore and Rs. 23.00 crore has been released to Government of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu respectively. The measure taken up by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has been indicated at Point (8) above.”

2.52 On being asked by the Committee regarding the specific reasons responsible for the SC/ST population not been able to reap the benefits of the schemes of the Department intended for their welfare and social upliftment and whether, the Department done any review in this regard and the measures envisaged so as to increase the involvement and participation of SC/ST population in their Schemes and in turn reap the benefits intended for them, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has highlighted matter with the States/UTs having sizeable Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe beneficiaries in all the review meetings and have been advised to ensure that minimum 16.6% of the Schedule Caste beneficiaries and 8.6% of the Schedule Tribe are included for financial assistance in PMMSY projects proposals while preparing the state annual action plan.

Further, PMMSY is a demand driven scheme. The PMMSY is in the final phase of its tenure, and the proposals approved in earlier years have already been largely utilized by the States/UTs. No Annual Action Plans for 2025–26 have been approved under beneficiary-oriented activities, as the Ministry of Finance has accorded only a limited extension of PMMSY for implementation during 2025–26 with a central outlay of Rs. 700 crore, restricted to the execution of mandatory activities.”

2.53 When asked by the Committee on the measures taken by the Department of Fisheries, GOI in identifying the SC/ST beneficiaries who are engaged in fishing activities in the States/UTs, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Identification of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries under the schemes implemented by the Department of Fisheries i.e Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), is carried out by the respective State/UT Governments.

However, the National Fisheries Digital Platform has been developed by the Department of Fisheries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) to create a centralized digital database of fishers, fish farmers and fisheries stakeholders, by giving digital identity. Till now, over 30 lakh fishers, fish farmers, and other stakeholders registered in the NFDP including Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) fishers and fish farmers.”

2.54 The Department has stated that most of the time the SC/ST population is not able to take benefits of the schemes of the Department due to lack of land availability and margin money required for such projects/schemes. On being asked by the Committee, if land can be made available to such individuals belonging to SC/ST and women fishermen so that they can take benefits of the schemes and the funds allocated for SC and ST are utilized to the full and whether the Department has explored the possibility of reserving some percentage of Amrit Sarovars only for the SC/ST and Women fishermen, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The PMMSY implemented by the Department of Fisheries provides financial assistance to various categories of beneficiaries including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. This scheme does not extend the financial assistance for acquisition of land (purchasing/ lease etc.) and the Department has no holding on land required for implementation of such beneficiary-oriented activities. Mobilization of land wherever required beneficiaries’ contribution, implementation of the projects and post construction management including ownership of assets created are vested with the beneficiaries. Allocation of land to SC/ST population under Amrit Sarovar has been noted. Since Amrit Sarovar’s are development and management comes under the aegis of Ministry of Rural Development., the matters related to reserving some percentage of Amrit Sarovar’s only for the SC/ST and Women fishermen, as recommended by PSC will be taken up with Ministry of Rural Development.”

2.55 In written reply to a query whether any funds allocated to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) were diverted to other heads during the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following:

“No funds allocated under SCSP under PMMSY since 2020-21 has been diverted and spent under other heads”.

CHAPTER – III

A) SCHEME WISE ANALYSIS

(i) PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY)

Scheme-wise details of Achievement of physical targets as furnished by the Department of Fisheries are as follows:

Sl. No.	Schemes	Name of the Component	Unit	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26			2026-27	
				Target	Achievement	Short - fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short - fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short - fall/	Target	Achievement	Short -fall/	Target	
1	PMMSY	Development of Freshwater Aquaculture	Ha.	4500	6293.94		50000	13194.24		10000	2097.45		10000	2050		10000	
		Development of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Ha.	1300	52												
		Development of Waterlogged Areas	Ha.	200	176												
		Establishing fish feed mills/plants	No.	40	198												
		Installation of cages/pens in reservoir and other open water bodies	No.	2900	7357		4500	13938		500	1617		500				500
		Installation of Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)	No.	1000	2231												
		Safety of Fishermen at Sea	No.	1500	322	Due to less proposals received from the States/UTs	Components dropped			Components dropped			Components dropped				Components dropped
		Assistance to Traditional/Artisanal fishermen	No.	1500													
		Promotion of Mariculture	No.	79650	64000		15000	2851		5000	2125		5000	2700			5000
		New fishing harbours/fish landing centres	No. of Project	7	0		10	3		10	3		10	1			10
		Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen	No. in Lakhs	35	33.21		35	34.54		36	36.28		36	33.46			36
		Saving-cum-Relief	No. in Lakhs	6	6.4		6	6.0		6	5.75		6	5.64			6
Training and Capacity Building	No	45000			70000	58 lakh (including outreach program)		40000	48175		40000	16057			80000		

3.2 The achievement for the FY 2025-26 under the components Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, Development of Brackishwater Aquaculture, and Development of Waterlogged areas has been only 2050 Ha as compared to the target set at 10,000 Ha. When asked by the Committee about the reasons for this under achievement, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The lower achievement of 2,050 ha against the target of 10,000 ha during FY 2025–26 under the components of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, Development of Brackishwater Aquaculture, and Development of Waterlogged Areas is primarily due to PMMSY being in the final phase of its tenure, limited approval of new beneficiary-oriented activities during the last financial year. Further, the Ministry of Finance initially granted a no-cost extension of PMMSY during FY 2025–26, co-terminus with the completion of the 15th Finance Commission tenure cycle and subsequently, granted a central outlay of Rs. 700 crore to consider some of the mandatory activities under PMMSY like Group Accidental Insurance, livelihood support during fishing ban period, services of Sagar Mitra, administrative expenses (State Programme Unit/District Programme Unit), implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED), implementation of PMMKSSY etc. In view of the non-availability of fiscal space under PMMSY during the FY 2025-26, proposals relating to the activities could not be considered.”

3.3 Fish meal production in India being a major industry which converts forage fishes, bycatch and processing waste/low value fish into high protein non-consumable products which are intended for both domestic as well as international trade. On being asked by the Committee, why no targets have been set up for establishing fish feed mills/plants from the FY 2023-24 onwards along with reasons, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The target set during initial stage of implementation of PMMSY has been exhausted already for establishing fish feed mills and due to the non-availability of fiscal space as indicated above (No 40) under PMMSY during the FY 2025-26, proposals relating to the activity could not be considered.”

3.4 In the budget announcement for the FY 2026-27, integrated development of 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovar's have been announced. On being asked by the Committee, about the reasons for 'Nil' achievement under the component of 'Installation

of cages/pens in reservoir and other open water bodies' during the FY 2025-26 against the target of 500, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The reasons for non-approval of cages during 2025-26 was due to the non-availability of fiscal space as indicated above (No 40) under PMMSY during the FY 2025-26. Further, it was expected that the approved units not commenced yet, shall be grounded during 2025-26, looking the sunset year of the scheme."

3.5 On being asked by the Committee, whether the target of 500 under the component 'Installation of cages/pens in reservoir and other open water bodies' during the FY 2026-27 is sufficient enough keeping in view the budget announcement and thereby harnessing the full potential of such developed reservoirs, the Department submitted the following reply:

"India is blessed with huge untapped reservoir fisheries. The Department during the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) under the ongoing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana has sanctioned Project Proposals at a total outlay of Rs.1666.35 crore involving central share of Rs.584.54crores for installation of 56452 Cages in major Reservoirs across 21 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnatka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The target of 500 numbers of cages has been set for initial entry point for activities to promote integrated value chain, which includes: development of cold chain infrastructure facilities near major reservoirs, adoption of scientific aquaculture and management practices, stocking of high yielding native species, harnessing of fisheries resources in a sustainable and equitable manner for enhance productivity, seamless market linkages. This also envisages involving of local Fisheries Cooperatives, Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs), fisheries start-ups and women led groups.

The target has been aligned with available budgetary resources, implementation capacity, and a calibrated approach to ensure quality and sustainability. A higher or phased enhancement of targets will be done subsequently, accessing the performance of the proposed cages."

3.6 When asked by the Committee, why there are 'Nil' achievements under the component 'Assistance to Traditional/Artisanal Fishermen and what are the reasons for not setting up any targets under the said component from the FY 2023-24 onwards, the Department submitted the following reply:

“PMMSY inter alia supported few of the welfare activities for Assistance to Traditional/Artisanal Fishermen’. 6818Nos replacement boats and nets for Traditional/Artisanal fishermen have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 250.86 crore under PMMSY and an average of 5.6 lakh Livelihood and nutritional support for socio-economically backward active traditional fishers approved.”

3.7 In the Economic Survey 2025-26 at chapter 6 on Agriculture and Food Management at para 6.33 page 245, it is stated that “Investment have been funneled into fishing harbours, fish landing centres, cold chain systems, processing facilities, deep sea fishing and advanced aquaculture systems”. Further, in the budget announcement for the FY 2026-27, it was proposed that to create new export opportunities beyond territorial waters, fish catch by any Indian vessel in the EEZ or in the high seas will be made free of duty. On being asked by the Committee, why no targets have been set up from the FY 2023-24 onwards under the component ‘Installation of Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)’, the Department submitted the following reply:

“In the Output outcome Monitoring Framework, there is no individual target for Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems, however, under the “Adoption of new technology” indicator, all the new technology for additional area expansion under aquaculture like cages, RAS, Biofloc has been integrated.”

3.8 When asked by the Committee, about the reasons for the achievement under the component “New fishing harbours/fish landing centres during the financial years 2025-26, which is only 01 as against the target set at 10, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Development of Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres is one of the important areas envisaged and are supported under the PMMSY. Such fisheries infrastructure projects are taken up on cost sharing basis between the Central and the concerned State on 60:40 ratio. To avail financial assistance, the concerned State Government/UTs are required to submit techno-financial viable proposals together with confirmation of availability of State share, required land and necessary clearances. Besides, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) also provides concessional finance for creation of such fisheries infrastructure facilities During FY 2025–26, the Department has accorded approval to proposal of U.T. administration of Andaman & Nicobar for one Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder in Andaman & Nicobar Islands under PMMSY. To facilitate

preparation of quality proposals, the Department in November, 2025 has circulated Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for “Development of Basic Infrastructure in Fish Landing Centres” and “Development of Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours”, which serve as guidance to State Governments/UTs and implementing agencies for formulation of techno-financially viable proposals of Fishing Harbour and Fish Landing Centre for central financial assistance under scheme. It is also relevant to mention that the tenure of PMMSY ended in FY 2024–25. Subsequently, The Ministry of Finance initially granted a no-cost extension of PMMSY up to FY 2025–26, co-terminus with the completion of the 15th Finance Commission tenure cycle. In view of the non-availability of fiscal space under PMMSY during the FY 2025-26, proposals relating to Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres could not be considered.”

3.9 When asked by the Committee, that, in the absence of Modern Fishing Harbours/Fish Landing Centres, how does the Department plan to fulfill the budget announcement of creating new export opportunities and harnessing the deep seas and Exclusive Economic Zones beyond territorial waters, the Department submitted the following reply:

“It is pertinent to mention that the Framework for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India and the High Seas, with a special focus on Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, was announced in the Union Budget 2025–26. Pursuant to the said budget announcement, during FY 2025–26, the Department has accorded approval for the Development of a Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder in Andaman & Nicobar Islands at an estimated cost of ₹199.24 crore, with 100% Central financial assistance under PMMSY. The proposed harbour is envisaged to provide modern, end-to-end fisheries infrastructure, including facilities for hygienic landing, handling, value addition, cold chain, and logistics, which are essential for meeting export standards and for supporting deep-sea fishing operations. The development of the Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder is expected to serve as a key enabling infrastructure for sustainable utilization of fisheries resources in the EEZ and the high seas, particularly in the strategically important Andaman & Nicobar region. The project is also aligned with the broader objective of strengthening fisheries value chains, improving market access, and creating new export opportunities, while ensuring sustainability of marine resources.”

3.10 On being asked by the Committee about the reasons for under-achievement under the component ‘Training and Capacity Building’ for the FY 2025-26, as against the target of 40000, only 16057 have been achieved, the Department submitted the following reply:

“A comprehensive Training and Awareness Calendar in the fisheries sector has been launched by Department of Fisheries, Government of India to systematically plan and deliver capacity-building programmes for fishers, fish farmers, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders, with a focus on skill development, adoption of modern technologies, best management practices, entrepreneurship promotion, and enhanced awareness of government schemes, thereby ensuring timely, coordinated, and effective outreach across States/UTs. Based on the proposals received by NFDB, NFDB has imparted training to 31,652 beneficiaries under Training, Capacity Building, and Fish Festival programmes during the year 2025–26 (as on 31.01.2026).”

3.11 When asked by the Committee about the details i.e. from 2014 onwards regarding the measures taken by the Department for strengthening of capacity building in the fisheries sector, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Since 2014, the Department of Fisheries has undertaken a series of coordinated initiatives to enhance capacity building and human resource development in the fisheries sector. Few of the key interventions undertaken by the Department for strengthening of capacity building in the fisheries sector includes”

Institutional Framework for Capacity Building in Collaboration with NFDB:

The training activities are being implemented by state/UT fisheries departments, Quasi-government organizations involved in fisheries sector, selected National and Regional level institutions, ICAR fisheries research institutes like CMFRI, CICFR, CIFA & CIFRI, ICAR- KVKs, ASCI, MPEDA, FISHCOPEED, FSI, and various Fisheries Universities. Farmers Training Centres (FTCs), Universities, Colleges of Fisheries, SAUs/ATICs/Coop. Societies/Academic institutions in the Fisheries etc.

Comprehensive Training & Awareness Calendar:

To ensure systematic planning and avoid overlap of activities across States/UTs, the Department launched a Comprehensive Training and Awareness Calendar, aimed at (i) Coordinated annual scheduling of capacity-building programmes, (ii) Promotion of modern technologies and best management practices (iii) Encouragement of entrepreneurship and value-chain development and (iv) Enhanced awareness of Government schemes and interventions.

Capacity building through DoF-NFDB regional Centers:

The NFDB–North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Guwahati caters specifically to the NE States and Sikkim, with activities including: Organization of region-specific training and awareness programmes

The Bhubaneswar NFDB-ERC functions as one of NFDB’s designated network hatcheries, thereby integrating practical demonstrations, broodstock management,

seed production, and field-level exposure into the training framework. This dual role enhances hands-on learning and ensures alignment with NFDB's broader strategic objectives for sustainable fisheries development.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI): NFDB has entered into a MoU with Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) for a period of 03 years (till PMMSY period) for taking up the Capacity Building programs and Skill Certification programs under Recognition Prior Learning for the skilled manpower.

Empanelment of the Private Agencies/Institutes/ Organizations: NFDB has Empanelled Private Agencies/Institutes/ Organizations as "Implementation Partners" for implementing Training, awareness and capacity building activities. A total of 8 firms were empanelled as implementing agencies for organizing specialized training programmes.

Exclusive Trainings for marine fishermen: On-Board handling of fish and Tuna long line, Monofilament tuna fishing etc., a hands-on exposure to retain the freshness and quality of caught fish and sustainable fishing was imparted with the training partners of CIFNET and NTFISH.

Training Programs through NFDB empaneled agency: Indian Rescue Academy (Part of ITUS Group) as a training partner conducted trainings to 1500 fishermen & rural youth of Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh in the areas of Disaster Preparedness in Fisheries Sector with specialized skills of Boat Rescue Operations and Usage of Life Saving equipment.

To enhance training delivery capacity within States:

NFDB trained 62 officials as Master Trainers through ToT programmes. These officials support field-level training implementation and fisheries project execution.

Human Resource Development & Training Achievements (2014–2026):

Over the period 2014–2026, the Department of Fisheries has developed a strong and integrated capacity-building ecosystem through NFDB and collaborating institutions. These efforts have significantly improved technical competencies, enhanced awareness levels, and strengthened institutional capacities, thereby contributing to sustainable growth and modernization of the fisheries sector across the country.

Training and capacity-building efforts have been progressively expanded under successive schemes and plan periods. The cumulative achievements are as follows:

- **2014–2016:** Training and capacity-building programmes benefitted 62,902 stakeholders, enabling dissemination of fisheries-related technologies to farmers, fisheries department officials, and other beneficiaries.
- **Blue Revolution Scheme (2015–19):** As the Nodal Agency for training and capacity building, NFDB supported programmes benefitting 80,137 stakeholders across various fisheries domains.

- **PMMSY (2020–2026):** *NFDB has trained 292315 stakeholders across various the country through various training programs organised by Institutes/States/UTs/Fishery Universities/Colleges/AOCs/ AAHLs/ KVKs.*
- *Since 2014 till date (Feb 2026) 435,354 fishers & fish farmers are trained through various training programs.”*

3.12 On being asked by the Committee, if cage fishing is carried out in reservoirs and rivers in the country and, whether, cage fishing help in the development of Inland fisheries, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Cage culture is being carried out in reservoirs and in suitable stretches of rivers across several States in the country, subject to technical feasibility and regulatory approvals. Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), financial assistance is provided for installation of cages, input support, and capacity building to promote scientific aquaculture in open water bodies. Cage culture enables high-density stocking and better feed management, leading to enhanced fish productivity compared to traditional capture fisheries, while optimally utilizing underexploited reservoir resources. It also generates livelihood opportunities for fishers, cooperatives, SHGs, and youth, particularly in reservoir-dominated and tribal regions.

Further, the Department during the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) under the ongoing PMMSY has sanctioned Project Proposals at a total outlay of Rs.1666.35 crore involving central share of Rs.584.54 crores for installation of 56452 Cages in major Reservoirs across 21 States.”

3.13 One of the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has been ‘doubling fishers and fish farmers’ incomes and generation of employment’. On being asked by the Committee about the progress achieved in this regard, the Department submitted the following reply:

“PMMSY implemented by the Department primarily aims toward enhancement of income of fishers & fish farmers and other allied stakeholders associated with the fisheries sector. The scheme has been contributing towards augmentation of fish production, productivity, quality to meet the consumer demands and preference and export thereby attributing to enhancement of income of fishers & fish farmers. During the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25), fish production increased from 141.64 lakh tons in 2019-20 to 197.75 lakh tons in 2024-25. Similarly, fisheries export has also increased from Rs.46,666 crore (2019-20) to Rs.62,408 crore (2024-25)”.

3.14 When asked by the Committee, about the details of actual employment that has been generated since the inception of PMMSY and how is the outcome of PMMSY in terms of employment generation verified, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, based on the proposals received from various State Governments, Union Territories and other End Implementing Agencies, has so far approved fisheries development proposals worth Rs.21,274.16 crore with central share of Rs. 9,189.79 crore under PMMSY. The PMMSY has also playing a vital role in generating significant direct and indirect employment opportunities in the fisheries and allied activities such as fishing, aquaculture, processing, transportation and marketing, ponds preparation etc. Under PMMSY, 46,86,698 employment (both direct and indirect) opportunities has been generation”.

3.15 On being asked by the Committee, about the measures envisaged by the Department of Fisheries, so as to increase the income of fishers and fish farmers in the country, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has launched various schemes at a total investment of Rs. 39,272 crore for holistic development of fisheries and aquaculture and empowerment of fishermen community in the country. Details of the Central Schemes/Programmes implemented are as below”

- (i) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries implemented for a period of 5 years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20 with a central outlay of Rs.3000 crore and this scheme mobilized an investment of about Rs 5000 crore into the fisheries sector.*
- (ii) In order to address the infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector, Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) was launched in the year 2018-19 with a total funds size of Rs 7522.48 crore. FIDF provides concessional finance to the Eligible Entities (EEs), including State Governments/Union Territories for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India provides interest subvention up to 3% per annum for the repayment period of 12 years inclusive of moratorium of 2 years for providing the concessional finance by the Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs) at the interest rate not lower than 5% per annum.*
- (iii) The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has been implementing from FY 2020-21 with an estimated investment of Rs.20,750 crore. This scheme is designed to address the critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernisation*

and strengthening of fisheries value chain, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare. The scheme also provides insurance of fishers & fish farmers and imparting training for skill development and capacity building among fishers and fish farmers.

- (iv) *To make the fisheries sector resilient and incentivize adoption of efficiencies in fisheries value chain, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has been implementing a Central Sector Sub-scheme "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PMMKSSY)" a sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an investment of Rs. 6000 crore. PMMKSSY aims at formalization of the fisheries sector, incentivizing the aquaculture insurance, fisheries micro and small enterprises value chain efficiency, adoption of safety and quality system for safe fish production etc.*
- (v) *Additionally, the Government of India with effect from the financial year 2018-19 has extended the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility to fishers and fish farmers to help them to meet their working capital requirements."*

(ii) Pradhan Mantri - Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

3.16 When asked by the Committee, regarding the details of the funds allocated for PM-MKSSY since its launch and the funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred under the said scheme till date, the Department submitted the following reply:

"An amount of Rs. 125.65 crore has been approved an amount of Rs. 91.72 crore has been released under PM-MKSSY."

3.17 On being asked about the status of formalization of fisheries sector under PM-MKSSY and how many fishers have been registered till date under National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP), the Department stated the following:

"Till date, more than 29 lakh fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders have registered on National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP). The Department of Fisheries has also requested all the States/UTs to undertake extensive awareness generation and ensure comprehensive registration of all eligible beneficiaries".

3.18 When asked about the numbers of fishers registered under the National Fisheries Digital Platform who could reap the benefits of credit access and insurance, as envisaged under PM-MKSSY till date, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Till date, more than 29 lakh fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders have registered on NFDP. Under credit module, a total of 20000 lead applications has been received and forwarded to banks for further necessary applications against which 347 loans have been sanctioned by the banks with loan amount of Rs 15.63 crores. Under Aquaculture Insurance, Insurance policies for 491.30 ha have been covered against which 29 beneficiaries covering 98.56 ha have availed the One-Time Incentive (OTI).”

3.19 What is the number of registered fishermen from the State of Madhya Pradesh. Only 29 lakh fishermen have been registered under the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) out of 3 crore fishermen which is very less. What are the reasons for the same and what measures are taken by the Department in this regard?

“The sub-scheme aims at formalization of the fisheries sector through digitalization. Being the first initiative of its kind, the development of the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) and its related modules has taken longer time than originally envisaged. The NFDP was launched on 9th September, 2024. As on date, more than 30 lakh fishers, fish farmers, and other stakeholders registered in the NFDP including 89,131 in Madhya Pradesh.

The Department is closely working with the stakeholders, intermediary agencies, State/UT Governments for mobilization of applications and creating awareness about the sub scheme. Further, this Department is conducting various camps, trainings, workshops and awareness programme for effective implementation of the Scheme and mobilization of stakeholders for registration.”

3.20 When asked about the kind of safety and quality assurance systems put in place under PM-MKSSY, for supply of safe fish products to consumers in the domestic market, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), the Department of Fisheries, Government of India supports interventions to ensure the supply of safe, hygienic and quality fish and fishery products to consumers in the domestic market. The approach adopted under the PM-MKSSY is value-chain based, covering production, handling, processing, traceability, certification and market delivery systems, with a focus on strengthening micro and small fisheries enterprises.

A key transformative initiative in this direction is the development of the National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2025. The framework envisages establishment of a national digital traceability system for fisheries and aquaculture to ensure compliance with domestic and international regulations, promote food safety, enhance sustainability, and improve market access. The framework

represents a major step toward modernization of India's fisheries sector while reinforcing sustainability and global competitiveness.

The safety and quality assurance interventions under PM-MKSSY is being operationalized through "Component-3: Adoption and Extension of Fish and Fisheries Product Safety and Quality Assurance Systems". The component focuses on promoting adoption and expansion of safety and quality systems while simultaneously creation and maintenance of Jobs, particularly for women, through fisheries micro and small enterprises. Under this component, performance grants are provided to eligible enterprises against investments made in fish product safety, quality assurance infrastructure and job creation. The component promotes adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) across the fisheries value chain. These include disease management, waste management, adherence to food safety standards, certification systems, traceability mechanisms and other technology interventions necessary to ensure safe fish production and handling."

3.21 On being asked about the details of Financial and technological interventions that are implemented in the fisheries sector under PM-MKSSY, the Department submitted the following:

"Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), the Department of Fisheries, Government of India is implementing a comprehensive set of financial and technology-driven interventions aimed at formalizing the unorganized fisheries sector, improving access to institutional finance, strengthening value chain efficiencies and adoption and expansion of fish and fishery products safety and quality assurance system.

A foundational technological intervention under the scheme is the creation of the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP), which serves as an integrated digital ecosystem for the fisheries sector. The NFDP aims at formalization of the Indian fisheries and aquaculture sector through creation of work-based digital identities and the database for all stakeholders in fisheries sector. It also serves as 'one-stop' solution for access to institutional credit, strengthening of fisheries co-operatives, incentivizing aquaculture insurance, performance-based incentives, fisheries' traceability systems and training and capacity building.

On the financial front, PM-MKSSY places strong emphasis on facilitating access to institutional finance for fisheries micro and small enterprises. The scheme supports credit linkage, financial documentation and onboarding of enterprises into formal lending ecosystems, thereby enabling them to expand operations and improve business viability.

Parallely, strengthening of fisheries cooperatives is also being undertaken through mentoring, capacity building and need-based financial support

To address the risks, the PM-MKSSY provides one-time incentive to beneficiaries for purchasing aquaculture crop insurance for one production cycle, with additional incentives for SC, ST and women beneficiaries. The intervention aims to create affordable insurance products, expand insurance coverage and build climate and disaster resilience in aquaculture systems.

To strengthen technology adoption and compliance systems, enterprises are encouraged to implement Best Management Practices, including disease management, waste management, traceability systems, certification protocols, and other quality and safety standards across the value chain.”

(iii) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

3.22 When asked about the details of the projects approved State/UT wise under FIDF from the FY 2022-23 up to 2025-26, the Department submitted the following reply as given below:

Sl No	Name of State	Total No. of projects approved	Total Project Cost	Amount eligible for interest subvention	No of Proposals sanctioned by NABARD	Loan Sanctioned by NABARD	Loan Disbursed by NABARD
1	Andhra Pradesh	11	1440.20	687.76	3	450	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.68	0.54			
3	Assam	1	0.41	0.18			
4	Goa	5	38.05	36.58	1	5	4.58
5	Gujarat	5	1354.92	750	4	600	378.49
6	Haryana	1	1.17	0.64			
7	Himachal Pradesh	1	5.17	5	1	5.00	5.00
8	Jammu and Kashmir	2	120.7	93.17			
9	Karnataka	2	1.44	0.79			
10	Kerala	7	262.9	234.97	1	150	4.44
11	Maharashtra	43	1215.97	910.78	5	716.54	122.33
12	Manipur	4	1.15	0.9			
13	Mizoram	2	12.71	10.16			
14	Odisha	11	144.87	84.18	7	50.35	
15	Puducherry	2	3.08	2.46			
16	Tamil Nadu	105	1804.03	1505.98	64	1314.73	1,133.18
17	Telangana	1	4.7	2.31			
18	Uttar Pradesh	2	75.22	60.09			
19	West Bengal	19	94.17	62.01	7	26.91	4.97
20	Uttarakhand	1	170	133.00	1	133.00	26.60
21	Madhya Pradesh	5	6.90	5.52			
22	Jharkhand	6	22.91	18.33			
23	Bihar	1	0.29	0.23			
	No of Private projects approved by NLEs	No of Pvt. Projects are subsumed with respective States			12	180.87	62.36
	Total	238	6781.64	4605.58	98	3449.1	1600.6”

3.23 FIDF was envisaged with a corpus of Rs 7522.48 crores which included funds raised by Nodal Loaning Entities, beneficiaries and budgetary support by GOI. When asked by the Committee, about the total funds that have been raised/disbursed under FIDF for various projects sanctioned under the scheme, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Based on the recommendation of Central Approval and Monitoring Committee (CAMC) of FIDF scheme, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has approved (as on 31st January-2026), a total 238 project proposals/projects at a total cost of Rs. 6781.79 crore with project cost restricted for interest subvention at Rs. 4604.88 crore to various States/UTs this loan amount raised through NLEs of this beneficiary share is amounting to Rs. 2176.91 crore under FIDF.”

3.24 On being asked if Fishing Harbours/Fish Landing Centre projects are also funded by FIDF and the details of the projects funded by FIDF during the FY 2022-23-2025-26 along with details of the amounts sanctioned and funds disbursed, the Department submitted the following:

“The Department of Fisheries based on the techno-financial proposals, so far, approved a total of 92(29 Fishing Harbours & 63 Fish landing centres) projects at a total cost of Rs.5451.68 crore restricting the project cost for interest subvention at Rs. 3659.84 crore have been approved under this scheme for fishing harbours and fish landing centres, including additional facilities in Fishing harbours and fish landings projects of various states. Out of approved 92 projects, 22 no’s projects were completed and remaining projects are under various stages of implementation.”

3.25 During the FY 2024-25, the expenditure made under FIDF has been Rs.18.25 Cr, which is Rs 6.75 Cr short of the actual allocated amount i.e. Rs 25 Cr. On being asked about the reasons for underutilization, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Due to non-submission of desired amount of UCs by NABARD, Department of Fisheries could not release the last installment during the last financial year 2024-25.”

3.26 Under FIDF, a credit guarantee mechanism has been introduced to facilitate access to institutional finance for fisheries infrastructure projects. When asked by the

Committee as to how many infrastructure projects have been given credit guarantee during the last five years, the Department submitted the following reply:

“While extending FIDF, Government of India has, inter alia, approved providing credit guarantee facility, it provides a credit guarantee cover of 25% of the credit facility, with a maximum limit of Rs. 12.50 crore under FIDF during the extended period of 3 years from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 (FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26) from the existing credit guarantee fund under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

The Credit Guarantee Scheme for FIDF Loans was rolled out in December 2024 under the management of NAB Sanrakshan Trustee Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD. Since its launch, NAB Sanrakshan has conducted several scheme-awareness and capacity-building programmes for its stakeholders to ensure wider coverage under the Scheme. As on date, 9 Eligible Lending Institutions, including 3 Public Sector Banks have been registered. However, no applications for guarantee coverage have been received to date.”

B. ANALYSIS OF FISHERY INSTITUTES

I) CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES, NAUTICAL & ENGINEERING TRAINING (CIFNET)

3.27 Details of Achievement of physical targets of CIFNET as given by the Department are stated below:

	Name of component	Unit	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26			2026-27
			Target	Achievement	Short - fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short - fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short - fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target	Achievement	Short - fall/ Excess, if any, with reasons	Target
Central Institute for Fisheries Nautical & Engineering Training	Students/persons trained	Nos	1819	2060		1819	2436		2045	2626		1980	1424		1980
	Days out at sea	No. of days	400	378		400	554		400	31		300	50		300
	Fishing efforts	No. of hours	1100	926.9		1100	1355.80		1100	51.3		840	70.0		840
	Institutional trainee days		1500	2006		2500	4165		2500	310		2000	250		2000
	Post-institutional trainee days		3000	2945		3500	4192		3500	249		2700	357		2700

3.28 During the FY 2024-25 and 2025-26, the achievements under the components ‘Days out at Sea’, ‘Fishing efforts’, ‘Institutional trainee days’ and ‘Post institutional

trainee days' has been very less compared to the targets set. When asked by the Committee about the reasons for the same and the measures taken, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The achievements under Days out at Sea, Fishing Efforts, Institutional Trainee Days and Post-Institutional Trainee Days during FY 2024–25 and FY 2025–26 were low mainly due to limited availability of the training vessel M.V. Skipper-II arising from technical and manpower constraints.

During FY 2024–25, the vessel could undertake only 02 voyages and 27 days of fishing, as operations were suspended from June 2024 to March 2025 due to non-engagement of contractual vessel manpower and the vessel being due for dry-dock repairs.

In FY 2025–26, the vessel underwent dry-docking at CSL, Kochi (May–July 2025), followed by mandatory statutory surveys and sea trials up to November 2025, which significantly reduced operational availability for training and fishing activities."

II) FISHERY SURVEY OF INDIA (FSI)

3.29 The data on targets and their achievement under 'Fishery Survey of India' since 2022-23 furnished by the Dept is as under:

	Name of Component	Unit	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26			2026-27	
			Target	Achievement	Shortfalls	Target	Achievement	Shortfalls	Target	Achievement	Shortfalls	Target	Achievement	Shortfalls	Target	
Fishery Survey of India	No. of fishing days by vessels		1685	1639		1604	1204	Breakdown repairs, delay in getting LSA/FFA clearance from Mercantile Marine Department (MMD)	1685	78	10	Out of 11 vessels are due for dry docking	789	108		1685
	Sampling hours for bottom and mid-water trawling		5355	3111	Prolonged dry-docking period and taking long time to complete under water plate renewals	4650	3015	Awaiting for dry docking repair and LSA/FFA survey	4650	462			2035	484.17		2035
	No. of hooks operated for Tuna long lining		304540	90495	Break in voyages due to sick crew/adverse weather condition	357040	31080		290570	-			224380	12723		224380
	Days out during cruise		2250	1288	Old age vessels	2180	490		2180	100			1040	167		1040
	No. of voyages		126	101		118	25		118	5			52	11		52

3.30 Under the component 'No of fishing days by vessels' there has been a substantial decrease in target achievement from the financial year 2024-25 and 2025-26. On being asked by the Committee about the reasons for this underperformance, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The decrease in vessel fishing days is a result of a combination of technical and administrative factors:

- ***Aging Fleet:*** *The current FSI vessels are between 21 and 47 years old. This has led to frequent mechanical fatigue, necessitating longer stay-in-ports for unscheduled repairs and longer docking periods during the repairs.*
- ***Regulatory Transition:*** *A transient change in inspection protocols between the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) and State authorities led to administrative delays in obtaining seaworthiness clearances.*
- ***Strategic Shift:*** *Since September 2025, the situation has improved significantly. Five vessels have completed their major refits and are back in operation. We are now prioritizing high-quality data collection."*

3.31. When asked by the Committee, if there are any spare ships to replace those ships which are due for dry docking and whether the Department plans to put such a mechanism in place, the Department submitted the following reply:

"Currently, FSI operates without a "buffer fleet". In the past, when a vessel goes for mandatory dry-docking, that specific maritime zone remained monitored by the vessels from other zones. However, recently, this was not possible as all of our vessels came to a standstill due to the reasons mentioned in response to question 57".

- *Current Status: There are no spare ships immediately available.*
- *Future Planning: The Department is evaluating replacing 30+ years old and inefficient vessels with new modern ships with high endurance to fill gaps during dry-docking. More ships will also enable FSI to plan a Rolling Replacement program to ensure a standby vessel is always available for the fleet. FSI also plans for a Phased Maintenance Schedule to ensure that the existing fleet doesn't all go into the shipyard at the same time.*
- *Fleet modernization proposals under the Government of India's long-term capacity-building initiatives.*
- *Induction of new-generation multipurpose survey vessels with higher endurance and reliability has been initiated/planned to improve operational efficiency and reduce downtime.*

- *Rationalization of survey schedules to minimize overlap between dry-docking and peak survey seasons.”*

3.32. As stated by the Department, Fishery Survey of India (FSI) operates without a 'buffer fleet'. On being asked by the Committee, what measures has the Department taken in this regard and for modernization of the Deep-Sea fishing vessels and survey vessels in the country, the Department submitted the following:

“The Fishery Survey of India (FSI) presently conducts its survey operations without a dedicated buffer vessel. To minimise disruption arising from mandatory dry-docking, refits and unforeseen repairs, operational planning measures have been instituted to ensure continuity of survey coverage. Dry-docking schedules are staggered to maintain survey presence across the east coast, west coast, and island waters, to the extent operationally feasible. Vessel deployment is managed flexibly, with ships assigned across regions when required to compensate for temporary non-availability of any vessel under maintenance. Cruise planning is prioritised based on seasonal resource distribution and survey requirements so that critical survey grids are covered within existing fleet constraints. With regard to modernisation, proposals for induction of new multipurpose fishery survey vessels to replace aging vessels that have completed or are nearing the end of their service life are under consideration. Progressive upgradation of scientific equipment is also being undertaken, including hydro-acoustic systems, navigation equipment and onboard data logging facilities”.

3.33. On being asked by the Committee, what kind of surveys does Fishery Survey of India conduct in the ocean along with the details of the surveys conducted by FSI in the last five years and the date of the last survey conducted in each category, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Fishery Survey of India conducts systematic marine fishery resource surveys in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and adjoining waters to assess fishery resources and provide scientific inputs for sustainable exploitation”.

Comprehensive Survey Categories

FSI utilizes a diverse fleet and specialized methodologies to map various ocean strata:

- **Demersal Resource Surveys:** *Bottom trawl-based assessment of ground-dwelling species (e.g., shrimp, pomfret).*

- **Pelagic & Mid-water Surveys:** Targeting surface and mid-layer species such as Mackerel and Sardines using hydro-acoustic tools and mid-water trawls.
- **Oceanic & Deep-Sea Surveys:** Tuna Longline Surveys: Assessing Tuna and Tuna-like species in the high seas.
 - **Exploratory Deep-Sea Surveys:** Beyond the continental shelf, targeting mesopelagic resources.
 - **Squid Jigging & Deep-sea Shrimp Surveys:** Specifically mapping non-conventional, high-export value resources.
- **Specialized Scientific Missions:**
 - **Environmental & Oceanographic Observations:** Profiling temperature, salinity, and habitat productivity.
 - **Marine Mammal & Pollution Surveys:** Stock assessment of mammals and "Glo-Litter" surveys to demarcate plastic pollution hotspots.
 - **PFZ Validation:** Correlating satellite data for real-time fishery advisories to the artisanal sector.

Latest surveys

FSI has maintained a regular survey calendar despite significant operational headwinds. The table below summarizes the most recent status:

Survey Category	Last Conducted (Date)	Primary Objective
Demersal Survey	Jan 2026	Stock assessment of groundfish.
Oceanic Tuna Survey	Feb 2026	Long-lining for deep-sea tuna.
Deep-sea Shrimp survey	Jan 2025	Mapping deep-sea nonpeanaeid shrimp stocks.
Deep-sea Squid survey	Dec 2003	The exclusive squid jigger MFV Sugandhi was decommissioned in 2003. However, a retrofitting of the trawler MFV Varshini with squid jigging machines is currently being used for capacity building of fishers.
Marine Plastic (Glo-Litter)	Jan 2025	Pollution hotspot demarcation.
Marine Mammal Survey	Feb 2025	Marine Mammal Stock assessment and providing comparability finding to the export market

Reasons for the shortfall/non-conduct of certain surveys in some periods include:

- (i) Extended dry docking/refit of vessels,
- (ii) Age-related mechanical breakdowns,

(iii) Delay in MMD/LSA/FFA statutory certifications,

(iv) Non-availability of spares, import restrictions and shipyard constraints.

- *Despite these challenges, FSI continues to undertake surveys through expedited repairs once the administrative issues related to statutory clearances are obtained and the optimum deployment of available vessels.”*

3.34. On being asked about the development and progress taken place in the Oceanic- Tuna Survey since the year 2014 and the role it will play in the programme of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Since 2014, FSI has upgraded its Oceanic Tuna Surveys by expanding research into the deep waters and by shifting to more efficient gears. FSI’s survey data acts as India’s scientific proof in international forums such as the IOTC and WTO, helping us protect our fishing rights and negotiate better trade deals globally. For Viksit Bharat 2047, our surveys act as a health report for our oceans, indicating how much fish can be harvested sustainably to ensure we meet national production targets without harming the environment. Alongside this, our capacity-building programs will guide and support fishers as they transition into deep-sea fishing. By 2047, FSI aims to lead the region in AI-driven fish stock assessment and capacity building in advanced deep-sea fishing techniques, helping India grow from a coastal fishing nation into a global leader in the seafood industry.”

3.35. On a query about the survey and training provided by the Department to fishermen for harnessing the deep-sea potential in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Country, since they are in direct competition with the fishermen of China and Taiwan, the Department submitted the following:

“To empower Indian fishermen to compete with advanced international fleets, the FSI provides a comprehensive support system through systematic mapping and technology transfer. FSI conducts pioneer surveys to identify high-value stocks, specifically oceanic tuna, billfish, and deep-sea squid at depths exceeding 200 meters. Through hands-on Onboard Training, fishermen gain practical exposure to the similar competitive technologies used by foreign fleets, such as high-efficiency monofilament longlining and automated squid jigging. This is further bolstered by guidance with precision navigation to reduce fuel costs, sashimi-grade post-harvest processing to meet premium export standards, and sea-safety protocols for long-duration voyages. By providing this scientific foundation, FSI enables the sector to move from opportunistic fishing to informed, sustainable exploitation, ensuring India’s maritime wealth is harnessed by our own domestic fishers.”

3.36. To tap the vast marine and deep-sea resources of the country, when the Committee asked about the research and technological assistance being provided by Fishery Survey on India, the Department submitted the following:

“The FSI provides research and technological assistance for sustainable exploitation of marine and deep-sea resources through the following:

- *Exploratory surveys and stock assessment of pelagic, demersal and deep-sea fishery resources in the EEZ.*
- *Identification of Potential Fishing Zones (PFZs) and dissemination of fishery advisory services through coordination with scientific agencies such as INCOIS.*
- *Technology demonstration programmes on deep-sea fishing methods such as tuna longlining, mid-water trawling, and resource-specific fishing techniques.*
- *Assessment of fishing gears and development of standardised fishing methodologies.*
- *Capacity building and training of fishers and fisheries stakeholders on deep-sea fishing operations, responsible fishing practices, onboard handling, navigation and safety measures.*
- *Resource mapping and fishery data generation for policy planning and management.*
- *Collection of oceanographic/environmental parameters relevant to fish distribution and abundance.*
- *Support to States/UTs through technical inputs for sustainable exploitation of underutilized deep-sea resources and diversification of fishing effort.*
- *Marine Mammal Stock Assessment survey to avoid the Non-Tariff Barriers by supporting the comparability requirements of the export markets.*
- *Mitigate the marine plastic debris and ghost gear pollution in the sea, and demarcation of plastic pollution hot spots along the Indian coast.*
- *Ensuring and supporting India to meet the regulatory requirements of international legal instruments such as IOTC, SIOFA, WTO, SDG14, IMO & KMGBF.”*

3.37. On being asked about the details of the funds allocated to FSI for the FY 2022-23 to 2025-26 and whether, the funds allocated to FSI are sufficient enough to carry out its vision and mission effectively, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Funds have been allocated to the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) under the relevant Demand for Grants for implementation of its mandated activities, including fishery resource surveys, vessel operations, maintenance, manpower support and capacity building programmes.

The year-wise allocation for FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 is as follows

SI No	Major Heads	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1.	2405- Revenue	9692.51	6717.50	4678.00	6772.48
2.	4405- Capital	192.00	195.00	66.00	461.78
3	TOTAL	9884.51	6912.50	4244.00	7234.26

While the allocated funds have enabled FSI to carry out its routine operations, enhanced allocation is required for effective achievement of its vision and mission, particularly in view of:

(i) FSI's mandate requires continuous offshore surveys, maintenance of survey vessels, procurement of specialized equipment, and manpower deployment.

(ii) A significant portion of expenditure is incurred on operation and maintenance of vessels, dry docking, fuel, statutory compliance, and replacement of critical ship machinery.

(iii) Considering the ageing fleet and increased dry docking costs, the available funds are often largely consumed in vessel upkeep, leaving limited resources for expansion of survey coverage and adoption of advanced technologies.

(iv) For effective achievement of its vision and mission, FSI requires enhanced allocation, particularly for fleet replacement/modernisation, procurement of scientific equipment, and strengthening of operational infrastructure.

Enhanced or augmentation of budgetary support would significantly improve FSI's ability to fulfil its long-term vision and mandate effectively, and complying the international commitments and research advancement."

3.38. Most of the targets under various components of FSI are not achieved due to reasons such as old age vessels, breakdown and long dry-docking periods, delay in getting LSA/FFA clearance from Mercantile Marine Department (MMD). What measures does the Department envisage to overcome these issues? Whether any steps are taken in this regard?

"The Department is aware of the constraints affecting achievement of targets, particularly those related to vessel availability and statutory compliance requirements. The following measures are being envisaged and initiated:

(i) Fleet modernisation/replacement: Proposals for the procurement of new modern survey vessels are being pursued to replace ageing vessels and enhance survey capability. More ships will also enable FSI to plan a Rolling Replacement program to ensure a optimise the surveys with the available fleet. The Fishery Survey of India submitted proposals for the acquisition of one near-polar going

vessel for the surveys in the southern Indian Ocean and four multigear vessels to replace the existing aged vessels.

- (ii) Improved Dry Dock Planning: FSI plans for a Phased Maintenance Schedule to ensure that the existing fleet doesn't all go into the shipyard at the same time. Dry docking schedules are being planned with emphasis on the timely procurement of spares and faster repair execution to reduce downtime.*
- (iii) Advance planning for dry docking: Dry docking schedules are being planned well in advance to reduce downtime and ensure availability of shipyard slots.*
- (iv) Strengthening Maintenance Support: Maintenance schedules are being tightened with periodic inspection and planned replacement of critical machinery to minimise breakdowns.*
- (v) Expediting statutory certifications: Regular coordination is being maintained with MMD/DG shipping authorities to ensure the timely renewal of statutory certificates and compliance requirements.*
- (vi) Procurement reforms: Efforts are being made to streamline procurement of essential spares and equipment through timely tendering and rate contracts.*
- (vii) Alternative operational mechanisms: The Department is also examining options such as chartering of vessels for specific surveys (though longline vessels with mechanical shooting and hauling equipment are less available in India), wherever feasible, to reduce survey disruptions.*

These measures are expected to improve vessel operational availability and enable improved achievement of physical targets in the forthcoming years.”

CHAPTER – IV

OTHER POLICY ISSUES

A. KISAN CREDIT CARD

When asked by the Committee, about the number of Kisan Credit Cards have been issued till date and whether any targets have been set for the current financial year with respect to KCC, the Department submitted the following reply:

“A total of 5,03,458 Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) have been sanctioned to fishers and fish farmers, with a cumulative disbursement of approximately ₹3,692.73 crore. The scheme is demand-driven; therefore, no year-wise targets have been fixed. However, an overall national target of covering 50,00,000 fishers and fish farmers has been envisaged under the scheme”.

4.2 When the Committee further inquired about the measures taken by the Department to increase the number of KCC issued to fishermen exclusively, the Department gave the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, in coordination with the Department of Financial Services and lending institutions, is facilitating the extension of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility to fishers and fish farmers to meet their working capital requirements for production and productivity-related activities. The KCC enables access to short-term institutional credit for expenses such as seed, feed, medicines, fuel, labour, maintenance of ponds, cages, RAS units, and other operational inputs. A total of 5,04,848 Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) have been sanctioned to fishers and fish farmers, with a cumulative disbursement of approximately Rs. 3,692.73 crore. The scheme is demand-driven; therefore, no year-wise targets have been fixed. However, an overall national target of covering 50,00,000 fishers and fish farmers has been envisaged under the scheme.

The measures taken to increase the number of KCC to fishermen includes:

- *To extend Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facilities to all eligible fishery and animal husbandry farmers, the Department of Fisheries, in coordination with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), conducted the Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign from 15.11.2021 to 31.07.2022, followed by another phase from 15.09.2022 to 15.03.2023. District-level KCC camps were organized weekly for on-the-spot scrutiny of applications. The Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign (2024–25) has resumed from 15.09.2024 to 31.03.2025 to achieve saturation of eligible fishers and fish farmers, with Gram Panchayat-level KCC camps being organized jointly by State/UT Fisheries*

Departments and SLBCs for on-the-spot scrutiny of both offline and online applications

- *A revised saturation drive, “Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan”, was also implemented from 01.10.2023 to 31.12.2023 to maximize beneficiary coverage. This was followed by the “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra” (15.11.2023 to 26.01.2024), aimed at rural outreach and awareness generation, wherein the KCC scheme for fish farmers was included among 18 flagship schemes for on-the-spot service delivery and awareness.*
- *To further streamline KCC delivery, the Department of Fisheries (DoF) facilitated the on-boarding of the Fisheries sector on the Jan Samarth portal on 15.03.2024.*
- *Under the newly introduced sub-scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) of PMMSY, institutional credit access is facilitated for fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, fish vendors, and micro and small enterprises in the fisheries sector through one-to-one facilitation and professional handholding for a smooth banking process.”*

B. EXPORT IN THE FISHERY SECTOR

4.3 On being asked by the Committee about the increase in fishery exports since the year 2014 and details of the development envisioned by the Department for fishery exports till the year 2047, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Over the past decade, India’s fisheries sector has registered sustained growth, with the country emerging as the 2nd largest fish producing nation, the 2nd largest aquaculture producer and the 6th largest fish exporting country globally. The sector has grown at an average annual growth rate of about 9.08 percent during the last eleven years. The value of marine product exports has increased from ₹33,441.61 crore in FY 2014–15 to ₹62,408.45 crore in FY 2024–25. This reflects an absolute increase of ₹28,966.85 crore, registering a growth of about 86.62 percent over the period. In US dollar terms, exports increased from USD 5,511.12 million to USD 7,453.73 million during the same period. In terms of quantity, seafood exports rose from 10,51,243 metric tons in 2014–15 to 16,98,170 metric tons in 2024–25, reflecting an increase of 6,46,927 metric tons, i.e., about 61.6 percent growth in volume over the decade. India’s current share in global seafood exports stands at about 4 percent.

The expansion in exports has been supported by diversification of export destinations, strengthening of quality compliance mechanisms and augmentation of processing infrastructure. The number of export destinations has increased from about 100 countries in 2014–15 to around 130 countries at present. The number of registered exporters has increased from 1,196 to 1,276. Value-added product exports have tripled to ₹7,666.38 crore, and processing capacity has expanded from 25,707 MT per day to 38,466 MT per day.

Commodity-wise, Frozen Shrimp continues to be the major export item, with its export value increasing from ₹22,468.12 crore in 2014–15 to ₹43,334.25 crore in 2024–25,

nearly doubling over the period. Significant growth has also been observed in Frozen Fish (from ₹3,778.50 crore to ₹5,212.12 crore), Dried Items (from ₹1,010.16 crore to ₹2,852.60 crore), and Frozen Squid (from ₹1,275.25 crore to ₹3,078.01 crore). Value-added and diversified products have contributed steadily to the overall export expansion.

Looking ahead, under the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Department of Fisheries envisages enhancing India's share in global seafood exports from 4 percent to 10 percent by 2047 and transforming India into a global maritime and seafood export leader with a resilient, sustainable and globally competitive fisheries sector. Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Phase-II, seafood export revenues are targeted to increase from ₹60,524 crore in 2023–24 to ₹1,25,000 crore by 2030–31. The strategy focuses on strengthening the entire fisheries value chain through enhanced value addition, diversification into premium products, establishment of robust traceability systems, strategic branding and marketing, adoption of advanced technologies and improved sanitary and phytosanitary compliance. An allocation of ₹588.75 crore has been earmarked under PMMSY Phase-II for export promotion, including ₹306.25 crore for fisheries trade and export promotion and ₹282.50 crore for aquatic animal health management systems. The Department also envisages increasing the contribution of technology-driven interventions in total fish production from less than 1 % to 5% by 2030 and establishing 11 Integrated Aqua Parks to provide end-to-end solutions and strengthen multi-species value chains, thereby positioning India as a leading global seafood exporter by 2047.”

4.4 Traceability is an important aspect in the export of fishery products from the country. On being asked by the Committee, about the measures put in place by the Department, to ascertain the traceability in fisheries sector and the blue print of National Framework for Traceability, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has recently released the National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture 2025 on the occasion of World Fisheries Day celebrated on 21st November, 2025. The framework provides for establishment of a national digital traceability system for fisheries and aquaculture to ensure compliance with domestic and international regulations, promote food safety, enhance sustainability, and improve market access. The framework is a transformative initiative to modernize India's fisheries and aquaculture sector, ensuring sustainability, food safety, and global competitiveness.

The National Traceability system envisages implementation of traceability across the entire fisheries and aquaculture value chains, covering all production sources, post-harvest activities, and market segments including fishing vessels, aquaculture farms, processing units and supply chains by mapping the fisheries and aquaculture value

Chains and addressing domestic and export market requirements. The framework provides for phased, inclusive, and technology-driven approach to ensure that both small-scale operators and large commercial enterprises can comply without disruption.

The framework provides for a National Level Governance Committee (NLGC) as an apex body providing strategic oversight, inter-agency coordination, and policy guidance to ensure the effective implementation of the framework. It also provides for an Adoption Committee under the overall guidance of NLGC to recommend mechanism for adoption of IT based national traceability in fisheries and aquaculture by different stakeholders including fishermen, aquaculture farmers and related stakeholders. Further, it also provides for training, capacity building and orientation to these stakeholders for better understanding, implementation and adoption.”

4.5 On being asked by the Committee, about the effect of Trade deal signed with European Union and United States of America (USA) on the domestic fishermen and fishery exports from the country and what amount of tariff was imposed on fishery exports from India to USA before USA increased the tariff to 58%, the Department submitted the following reply:

“India and the United States have signed an Interim Agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade; however, a comprehensive Trade Deal is yet to be concluded. Prior to the tariff hike, Indian seafood exports to the USA were subject to 0% MFN import duty, with only trade remedy measures of 5.77% Countervailing Duty and 2.49% Anti-Dumping Duty, totalling 8.26%. Since April 2025, cumulative tariffs on shrimp exports were raised to 58.26%. Recently, tariffs have been reduced to about 18%, which is expected to restore competitiveness and potentially increase exports from the current USD 1.8 billion to about USD 2.5 billion, benefiting fishers, farmers and processors. In contrast, under the India–EU Free Trade Agreement signed on 27 January 2026, tariffs of up to 26% on Indian shrimp and fish exports will be reduced to zero, enhancing price competitiveness and providing significant gains to domestic fishermen and exporters.

The Department of Fisheries, in association with MPEDA, has reviewed the implications of FTAs and conducted extensive stakeholder consultations to maximise benefits and address concerns. The Department has closely monitored market behaviour, export trends and diversification strategies. Comparative data for April–December 2024 (pre-tariff) and April–December 2025 (post-tariff) indicates resilience, with overall seafood exports increasing by 20% in value (from ₹47,667 crore to ₹57,403 crore) and 15% in quantity (from 13.17 lakh MT to 15.16 lakh MT). Exports to non-US markets alone increased by ₹10,784.06 crore during this period.

To sustain and strengthen seafood exports, the Government has undertaken targeted initiatives, including export diversification efforts, investor and exporters’ meets, bilateral

engagements and international cooperation, establishment of a multi-agency coordination mechanism, and policy measures announced in Budget 2026–27 such as enhancing duty-free import entitlement for value-added ingredients from 1% to 3% of FOB value and exempting customs duty on fish caught by Indian vessels in the EEZ/high seas. These coordinated efforts have resulted in listing of 211 new Indian export establishments across major markets including the EU, UK, China, Russia and Brazil, thereby expanding market access and reinforcing India’s global seafood trade competitiveness”.

C. SAFETY OF FISHERMEN AT SEA- VESSEL COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM (VCS)

4.6 An ISRO- enabled Vessel Communication and Support System (VCS) was launched in 2024 to improve safety and give advisories to fishing vessels. On being asked by the Committee, whether any target was set in this regard and the achievements so far, the Department submitted the following:

“The Department of Fisheries, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has approved a project on “National Rollout Plan for Vessel Communication and Support System” for installation of indigenously developed transponders on one lakh marine fishing vessels covering mechanized and motorized vessels of all 13 coastal states and UTs with an outlay of Rs. 364 Crores. Vessel Communication and Support System is being implemented with technical support of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Hon’ble Prime Minister launched the project on 30th August 2024 from Palghar, Maharashtra.

DoF has set target to install 1 lakh transponders in all 13 coastal states and UTs. on mechanized and motorized fishing vessels with 60:40 funding pattern. Transponders are being provided to fishermen free of cost. The project is currently under advanced stage and 70, 000 transponders have been delivered and more than 49,000 transponders installed till now. Under this project, target was set up to establish 78 monitoring stations which have been established across the coastal States and UTs. In view to provide uninterrupted services to the fishermen for vessel communication and support system, an Earth Station is also being set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. Data backup and Disaster Recovery Centre has been established at the premises of the Indian Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.

The Vessel Communication and Support System plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of fishermen, particularly during natural disasters and cyclones. In October 2024, during Cyclone Dana on the east coast, timely alerts and safe navigation advisories enabled fishermen in Odisha to return safely. Similarly, during Cyclone Montha in 2025, transponders played an important role in safeguarding fishermen. The system helps prevent inadvertent International Maritime Boundary Line

(IMBL) crossings by continuously tracking vessel positions and issuing real-time alerts as boats approach international boundaries, thereby ensuring safer and lawful fishing operations. Transponders also benefit fishermen by delivering Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories directly to their Android phones, enabling accurate identification of fish-rich areas."

D. BANNING OF DESTRUCTIVE FISHING PRACTICES- INTRODUCING A LEGISLATION

4.7 On being asked by the Committee, whether the Department of Fisheries proposes to bring in any 'Bill' to ban destructive fishing practices such as 'LED Fishing', 'Bull Trawling', and any such practices which endanger juvenile fishes and act as a deterrent to the goals of ecological and sustainable fisheries, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The Ministry of External Affairs in consultation with the Department of Fisheries, Gol, on 04th November, 2025 has already notified " the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone Rules, 2025 " under the MZI Act, 1976. Rule 14 provides for "Prohibition of destructive fishing, juvenile fishing, and no-fishing zones in the exclusive economic zone of India (beyond territorial waters), including prohibition of (a) use of dynamite, explosives, poisons, noxious chemicals, or other destructive materials or methods, including pair trawling or bull trawling; (b) use or installation or operation of surface or submerged artificial lights or LED lights, fish light attractors or any other light equipment with or without generator on mechanised fishing vessel or motorised fishing craft for trawling, purse-seining, and gill netting operations; (c) capture of juvenile fish or related activities; (d) fishing in 'No Fishing Zones' or such 'designated areas' as notified by the Central Government from time to time; and (e) fishing during the ban period imposed by the Central Government from time to time."

E. DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERMEN COOPERATIVES AND FISH FARMERS PRODUCERS' ORGANISATIONS

4.8 On being asked about the number of fishermen cooperatives established in the country and whether any target is set up in this regard along with the measures taken to achieve the same, the Department submitted the following reply:

"At present, India has 27,071 primary level fisheries cooperatives with 44.86 lakh members, 145 District level and 21 State level federations. It has been observed that few federations like Kerala (Matsyafed), Tamil Nadu (TAFCOFED), Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra operate in a better manner undertake business activities such

as processing, value addition, retail marketing, sale of subsidized diesel, sale of fishing nets, providing micro-credit to fishers, trout fish culture and marketing, etc.

The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has been designated as the nodal agency for formation of new fisheries cooperative societies. The NFDB, in consultation with the Ministry of Cooperation has prepared a detailed action plan for formation of 12,000 new Fisheries Cooperative Societies in the uncovered gram panchayats & villages in 10 years from 2023-24 to 2032-33. Formation of 12,000 new fisheries cooperative societies is envisaged in two phases, i.e. target of 6,000 in each phase.

Further, NFDB being the nodal agency, in consultation with Ministry of Cooperation, GoI, has also prepared an action plan, 'Margdarshika' for forming 6,000 new multipurpose fisheries cooperative societies in the country and strengthening of 5,500 existing fisheries cooperative societies under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) in co-ordination with the States/UTs from the year 2024-25 to 2028-29. As on date, a total of 2,197 new Fisheries Cooperative Societies has been formed in 29 States & 5 UTs."

4.9 When asked about the number of Farmers Fisheries Producers Organisations (FFPOs) have been formed till date along with the targets for the same, the Department submitted the following:

"A total number of 2195 Farmers Fisheries Producers organisations has been approved under PMMSY and different Organization like National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has also been assigned the task."

F. NUCLEUS BREEDING CENTRES (NBC)

4.10 When asked by the Committee about the current status of setting up of Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBCs) so as to enhance the genetic quality of aquaculture species specifically for shrimps which are important aspect of domestic consumption as well as exports, the Department submitted the following:

*"The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, is consistently advancing the genetic quality of aquaculture species through the establishment of Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBCs), with a particular focus on shrimp-an important commodity for both domestic consumption and export markets. Historically, India's shrimp farming relied heavily on *Penaeus monodon*, but recurrent disease outbreaks constrained its*

expansion. To address this challenge, farmers have increasingly adopted genetically improved, Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) shrimp seed, which has significantly strengthened the sector's resilience and productivity.

In this context, the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), the R&D arm of MPEDA, has established and operationalized a Nucleus Breeding Centre (NBC) for *Penaeus monodon* at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, supplying Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) broodstock to hatcheries. The facility operates under stringent biosecurity and disease-monitoring protocols to ensure high genetic quality and health standards.

RGCA has developed 5,000 shrimp brooders, which were supplied to hatcheries following inspection and certification by the Coastal Aquaculture Authority. To further strengthen the SPF shrimp seed value chain, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has approved RGCA's proposal amounting to ₹12.07 crore for establishing a Pilot-Scale Broodstock Multiplication Centre for *P. monodon* and a Shrimp Evaluation Study Unit (SEU) at Rajakkamangalam, Kanyakumari District.

Further, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has approved a Central Sector project costing ₹25.04 crore for the ICAR–Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai. The project focuses on the genetic improvement of *Penaeus indicus* and the establishment of a Nucleus Breeding Centre (NBC) for this native shrimp species. ICAR-CIBA has already created the NBC infrastructure, established the founder population, and initiated on-farm trials of the improved seed. To reduce dependence on imported broodstock and Parent Post-Larvae (PPL) of *Litopenaeus vannamei*, the Department has also issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) for establishing a domestic NBC for this species.

In addition, the Department of Fisheries has notified ICAR–Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, as the NBC for freshwater species. ICAR-CIFA produces and supplies genetically improved seed of rohu, catla, and scampi and has initiated a genetic improvement programme for murrel. Similarly, the Regional Centre of ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI), Mandapam, Tamil Nadu, has been notified as the NBC for marine finfish. A project costing ₹4.00 crore has been approved to support the genetic improvement programme for Indian Pompano”.

G. SUSTAINABLE HARNESSING OF FISHERIES IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)- SPECIAL FOCUS ON ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS AND LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS.

4.11 The Committee desire details about the rules notified by the Government for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Hight Seas by Indian-Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025. The Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, along with the Ministry of External Affairs, has brought up the enabling framework for fisheries in the EEZ, namely ‘The Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India Rules, 2025’ (EEZ Rules) notified on 04th November, 2025 under the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 (MZI Act 1976). The Rules are applicable for fishing and fishing related activities in the EEZ of India (beyond territorial waters of 12 nautical miles) in respect of fishing operations by the Indian fishing vessels. The non-motorized artisanal fishing boats (~ 42,000 nos) and the motorized fishing vessels (~ 1,62,000 nos) of less than 24 m overall length (OAL) are exempted under the Rules from the requirement of obtaining the Access Pass. The foreign fishing vessels or any such arrangements are not allowed to fish in the EEZ of India.

The EEZ Rules are framed to promote sustainability of marine ecosystem with optimum utilization of untapped fishery resources. Emphasis is also given to promote ecosystem approach for sustainable harnessing of resources and implementation of the conservation and management measures, such as uniform ban on fishing during monsoon or fish breeding season, minimum legal size of fish for capture, bycatch reduction measures, best practices for reducing post-harvest losses, conservation of fish stocks or rejuvenation measures including sea ranching, installation of artificial reefs, etc. The Rules also prohibit destructive fishing and juvenile fishing in the EEZ to protect the marine biodiversity of our seas.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in consultation with the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, on 9th December 2025 has issued ‘the Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas by Indian Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025’ (High Sea Guidelines). These guidelines will govern the fishing and fishing-related activities by the Indian flagged vessels in the High Seas. This is for the first time ever, India is now formally entering the High Seas, an area where countries like China, the EU nations, Taiwan, Japan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia have been operating for decades. This marks the beginning of India’s journey into high-value deep-sea fishing, unlocking new

opportunities for our fishers, cooperatives, FFPOs, and coastal communities. This initiative will open new income avenues, create jobs in processing and exports, and strengthen India's presence in the global seafood market".

4.12 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. When the Committee asked about the progress achieved in this regard:

"In pursuance of para-No.20 of the Budget Announcement (2025-26), after several rounds of consultations with Inter-Ministerial, coastal states and stakeholders, the Department of Fisheries, has finalized the enabling framework, i.e., Draft Rules for the EEZ Fisheries and Draft Guidelines for the High Sea Fisheries, which were placed on the public domain inviting comments from the public. The draft Rules and Guidelines were revised based on the comments received, legally vetted by the Legislative Department and were sent to the MEA for administrative approvals. Subsequently, the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India Rules, 2025 were notified by the MEA under the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 on 4th Nov 2025. Also, the Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas by Indian-Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025 has been issued by the MEA on 09th Dec 2025. The Dept. of Fisheries, Gol has issued the necessary Orders and updated the web-portal 'ReALCRaft' for processing of applications for issuance of 'Access Pass' for the EEZ and 'Letter of Authorization' for the High Seas, and also shared the EEZ Rules and High Sea Guidelines with all Coastal States/UTs for implementation.

The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of India (Gol) in association with Andaman & Nicobar Administration had organized investor meet at Swaraj Dweep, Andaman & Nicobar Island on 14th November, 2024 with objective to offer investment opportunities in the field of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Investors from different parts of the country including local investors interested in Deep Sea Fisheries and processing and value addition. Further, DoF, Gol has notified for development of Tuna cluster in Andaman & Nicobar Island with objective to promote Deep Sea Fisheries. Similarly, DoF, Gol in association with Lakshadweep Administration recently organized an investor meet at Bangaram, Lakshadweep on 13th December, 2025 with objective to offer investment opportunities in the field of Fisheries and Mariculture Sector of the Lakshadweep Island.

Adopting the "whole of government approach", the Department of Fisheries, Gol has also collaborated with the Ministry of Cooperation and formed a Joint Working Group (JWG), to promote small-scale fishermen's participation in deep-sea fishing, value-

chain development, processing and exports. The Ministry of Cooperation supports this initiative by strengthening cooperative institutions and facilitating access to cooperative credit through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). In Maharashtra, 14 DSFVs have been supported by NCDC with a total project cost of ₹20.30 crore, including NCDC loan assistance of ₹11.55 crore, PMMSY assistance of ₹6.72 crore, and society contribution of ₹2.03 crore. Adopting this model two societies of fishermen of Mumbai city have recently received 02 DSFVs under PMMSY on 27.10.2025. Further, Department of Fisheries has accorded approval of Mayabandar smart and integrated fishing harbour at a cost of Rs. 199 crore under PMMSY”.

4.13 On being asked about the policy initiatives planned by the Department of fisheries for the development of fishery sector in the UTs of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has initiated a series of strategic policy interventions under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to transform the fisheries sector in the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) and Lakshadweep. For the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Department has approved projects totalling Rs. 263.11 crore (with a central share of ₹235.67 crore). These initiatives focus on building a robust production base through the establishment of freshwater and marine finfish hatcheries, biofloc ponds, and open-sea cage culture. Significant emphasis is placed on high-end infrastructure, including the construction of a Fishing Harbour at Mayabandar costing Rs. 199.24 crore, fish feed mills, and a wholesale market at Basthubasthi. To modernize the fleet, the government provides support for deep-sea fishing vessels, communication tracking devices, and the notification of a Tuna Cluster to streamline deep-sea operations and export logistics.

In the UT of Lakshadweep, the government has approved proposals worth ₹62.45 crore (central share of Rs. 44.21 crore) over the last five years, specifically targeting high-value niche sectors. Key focus areas include the promotion of seaweed cultivation through a dedicated Seaweed Cluster, the development of backyard ornamental fish units, and the implementation of MSC Certification for Tuna to enhance international marketability. The infrastructure strategy includes the deployment of refrigerated three-wheelers for fish vending and the construction of cold storage units to minimize post-harvest losses.

Further, to catalyze private investment, the Department organized high-profile Fisheries Investors’ Meets at Swaraj Dweep in 2024 and Bangaram Island in 2025, bridging the gap between local fishers and global commercial opportunities.

Beyond these region-specific investments, the Department has implemented broader policy frameworks to facilitate sustainable growth across both archipelagos. This includes the introduction of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Mariculture and

the launch of an 'Access Pass' system to simplify fishing rights within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Furthermore, a Joint Working Group with the Ministry of Cooperation has been established to empower small-scale fishermen through cooperative credit and value-chain integration. These combined efforts aim to shift the island economies from traditional subsistence fishing to technology-driven, commercially viable, and export-oriented hubs."

H. ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE COVER FOR FISHERMEN

4.14 when asked by the Committee, about the status and measures taken by the Department with respect to their recommendation for enhancing the Accidental Insurance Cover under the Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS) from Rs. 5 lac to Rs. 10 lac, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The Department has taken note of the recommendation of the Committee made in its Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2025–26) regarding enhancement of the Accidental Insurance Cover under the Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. The proposal for enhancement of Accidental Insurance Cover under Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) is being considered in the PMMSY-II subject to the approval of the competent authority".

4.15 The Committee, specifically inquired about the difficulties faced by the Department in providing Insurance schemes for the fishermen and fish farmers, the Department submitted the following reply:

"The issues and challenges faced by the Department in providing Insurance schemes for the fishermen and fish farmers includes":

a) Non-Participation of Major States in the scheme

Although at present GAIS covers 34.71 lakh fishers from 30 States/UTs, major states such as Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal & Kerala is not participating in the scheme. North-eastern states such as Nagaland & Mizoram are also not participating.

b) Delay in Claim Intimation and Document Submission

As per policy conditions, claim intimation is required within 120 days, and submission of complete documents within 180 days from the date of accident. However, in many cases, claims are intimated late by nominees and State Fisheries Departments, resulting in avoidable rejections and procedural complications.

- c) **Non-Submission of Mandatory Accident-Related Documents**
Since the scheme is an Accident Insurance, insurers are required, as per IRDAI regulations, to ascertain the cause and nature of death/injury. Accordingly, documents such as FIR, Final Police Report, and Post-Mortem Report are mandatory. However, beneficiaries often fail to submit these critical documents, leading to claim delays and rejections.
- d) **Submission of Documents in Vernacular Languages**
Being a Pan-India scheme, claim documents are frequently submitted in regional/vernacular languages, which creates challenges in verification, interpretation, and processing, thereby increasing turnaround time and risk of errors.
- e) **Increase in Consumer Complaints Despite Policy-Based Rejections**
Although claim rejections are carried out by insurers in accordance with policy terms and conditions, consumer complaints are increasingly being filed, particularly from Telangana State, causing reputational concerns, legal expenditure, and additional administrative burden.
- f) **Inadequate Handholding Support from State Fisheries Departments**
Minimal facilitation and follow-up by State Fisheries Departments in assisting beneficiaries to obtain mandatory documents from police, hospitals, and revenue authorities significantly affects timely and complete claim submission.
- g) **Non-Submission of Original Medical Bills and Documents**
In hospitalization-related claims, original hospital bills, discharge summaries, and diagnostic reports are often not submitted, which is a mandatory requirement, thereby delaying claim processing or leading to rejections.
- h) **Difficulty in Obtaining Legal Heir / Family Member Certificates**
Insurers mandate Legal Heir Certificates / Family Member Certificates issued by Revenue Authorities to establish rightful claimants. However, in several northern states, these certificates are not easily obtainable or are highly time-consuming, resulting in substantial claim pendency and grievances
- i) **High Dependency on Inter-Departmental Coordination**
Claims require coordination among police, hospitals, revenue authorities, local administration, and fisheries departments, which significantly increases processing time and procedural complexity.
- j) **Non-Uniform Administrative Practices Across States**

Wide inter-state variations exist in issuance of FIRs, post-mortem reports, legal heir certificates, and family certificates, leading to non-standard documentation, verification delays, and interpretational issues.”

I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN RESIDING ALONGSIDE RIVERS

4.16 When asked by the Committee, about the monitory as well as social welfare measures initiated by the Department to protect the interests of small fish farmers and traditional fishermen, the Department submitted the following reply:

“Welfare and development of the traditional fishers are at core of schemes and programmes of the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. Under the PMMSY, support is provided to the fishers for acquiring new fishing boats and nets to enhance their fishing capacities, Livelihood and Nutritional Support in the form of assistance during the annual fishing ban period to mitigate their economic hardships, support undertaking sea cage farming, seaweed cultivation, ornamental fish farming, pearl farming etc for diversification to climate resilient livelihood in the coastal areas and for earning additional income, deployment of Artificial Reefs in the coastal areas for replenishment of fisheries resources in the traditional fishing grounds and restoration of coastal ecosystems, support for upgrading their present fishing vessels to modern deep-sea fishing vessels for earning a significantly increase annual profits, Alternative Livelihoods: Promotion of mariculture, cage culture, and seaweed cultivation to provide sustainable livelihoods, accidental insurance cover for protection of fishers against injury and loss of life, Training and Capacity Building programs to enhance skills and knowledge in modern fishing practices and technologies. All these initiatives aim to improve the socio-economic conditions of traditional fishers and ensure sustainable fishing practices.

Further, the state Marine Fisheries Regulation Acts (MFRA) often recognize and protect the traditional fishing rights of local communities and demarcated specific areas where traditional fishing practices are prioritized.”

4.17 On being asked about the plan of the Department for the socio-economic development of fishermen residing alongside various rivers in the country as many traditional fishermen communities such as Nishad, Kevat, Mallah reside alongside rivers who are engaged in fishing activities for their sustenance needs, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department is implementing a flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at a total outlay of Rs. 20,750 Crores for holistic development of fisheries and welfare of Fishermen in the country, including all the traditional fishermen communities. Major welfare measures include financial assistance for boats, nets and gear, aquaculture inputs, cage culture, and post-harvest infrastructure; insurance coverage under Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) for fishers, support for livelihood during fishing ban/lean periods, cold chains, and hygienic fish markets, and formation of Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) for collective trading and market access. Access to institutional credit through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility for fisheries has also been extended to meet working capital requirements.

Special focus is given to traditional fishermen communities, women fish workers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and fishermen residing alongside various rivers through targeted allocations and beneficiary-oriented interventions. Capacity building, skill development, digital registration through the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) has been provided for socio-economic upliftment of fishermen across the country”.

4.18 How many cold storages have been developed till date, in areas having substantial SC/ST population who reside alongside major rivers in the State of Madhya Pradesh particularly Narmada River and in other States/UTs of the country. Whether there is any provision for development of cold storages particularly for small fish farmers? If so, give details.

“There is specific provision for development of cold storage and other post-harvest infrastructure for fishers and small fish farmers under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Under PMMSY, 734 Nos. of ice plant/cold storages has been approved and 35 cold storages have been developed till date, in areas having substantial SC/ST population who reside alongside major rivers in the State of Madhya Pradesh particularly Narmada River.”

J. DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES

4.19 On being asked about the potential of Inland and Marine fisheries in the country and details of the funds spent on Inland and Marine Fisheries separately for the last five financial years, the Department submitted the following reply:

“India is endowed with 2.4 million square kilometers of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and a coastline of 11098 km that has an estimated annual potential of 53.10 lakh

metric tons for capture fisheries including Deep sea & Oceanic resources of 2.31 lakh tons. While the fish production from the marine sector has registered a slow growth with increase from 37.27 lakh tonne (2019-20) to 46.15 lakh tonne in 2024-25(adding 8.88 lakh tonne 23.82%), the inland fisheries and aquaculture production has increased from 104.37 lakh tonne in 2019-20 to 151.60 lakh tonne in 2024-25 i.e. an increase of 47.23 lakh, which is 45.25%. The annual fish production of India during the last 5 years increased from 141.64 lakh tons during 2019-20 to an all-time record of 197.75 lakh tons in 2024-25, achieving an average annual growth of more than 7%. The inland aquaculture contributes about 80% of the total fish production. Department of Fisheries accorded approval of projects amounting Rs. 11364.49 crore with a central outlay of Rs. 4402.02 crore for development of Marine fisheries and proposals worth of Rs. 7868.92 crore with a central share of Rs. 3124.32 crore for development of Inland Fisheries in the country under PMMSY”.

K. DEVELOPMENT OF ORNAMENTAL FISHERIES, PEARL FARMING AND SEAWEED PRODUCTION

4.20 On being asked about the measures taken by the Department to promote ornamental fisheries and the number of individuals trained by the Department in ornamental fisheries and whether such a training can be clubbed with National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs), the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, has undertaken several initiatives to promote ornamental fisheries in the country, as outlined below”

1. Promotion under PMMSY:

From 2020–21 to 2024–25, a total of 2,465 ornamental fish rearing units, 207 integrated breeding and rearing units, 5 freshwater brood bank units, and 144 recreational fisheries promotion units have been approved under PMMSY, with an overall investment of ₹230.45 crore.

2. Cluster Development:

Madurai District in Tamil Nadu has been designated as an Ornamental Fisheries Cluster under PMMSY, with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) as one of the implementing agencies.

Stakeholder consultations have been organised and awareness programmes conducted to sensitise participants on the cluster initiative at Madurai. Training in ornamental fish culture has also been conducted at Madurai in collaboration with ICAR Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR–CIFA).

The cluster-based framework provides support to fishers, fish farmers, Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs), SHGs, JLGs, cooperatives, and other stakeholder groups, ensuring holistic development across the ornamental fisheries value chain. Further, under Phase –II PMMSY government has proposed to develop ornamental fisheries in a cluster approach.

3. Training and Capacity Building:

The DoF, GoI, through NFDB and national institutes, undertakes extensive training and skill development programmes in ornamental fisheries.

- *NFDB and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provide technical and enterprise training for FFPOs, SHGs, JLGs, cooperatives, and other groups under the PMMSY cluster framework.*
- *ICAR institutes, including ICAR–CIFA, regularly conduct both online and hands-on training programmes covering breeding, rearing, aquarium management, and marine ornamental fish culture.*
- *NFDB has supported training programmes for 1,000 trainees in Rajasthan to promote ornamental fisheries.*
- *Dedicated training modules are also available under Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI), and several NFDB-aligned institutes conduct specialised training programmes in ornamental fisheries.*

4. Infrastructure and Value Chain Strengthening:

Projects have been sanctioned for the establishment of public aquariums and development of ornamental fish infrastructure. These include a ₹5 crore public aquarium at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, and an aquarium facility at Amingaon, Assam, for showcasing indigenous ornamental species.

5. Entrepreneurship Support:

Under the entrepreneur-led model of PMMSY, beneficiaries are eligible for project support up to ₹5 crore, with subsidy assistance of up to ₹1.25 crore for General Category beneficiaries and ₹1.5 crore for SC/ST/Women beneficiaries, as per scheme guidelines.

Number of Individuals Trained:

A total of 1,000 individuals in Rajasthan have been trained in ornamental fisheries through Ornamental fisheries training and research institute with NFDB financial assistance. Additional training initiatives are being conducted by ICAR institutes, ASCI, National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIPHHAT), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and other NFDB-supported organisations.

NFDB has sponsored seven training programmes through ICAR and nine programmes through ICAR–ATARI, which are being implemented by various KVKs with a specific focus on ornamental fisheries.

Training programmes in ornamental fisheries have also been conducted in collaboration with National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and with FFPOs. The PMMSY cluster approach integrates FFPOs, SHGs, JLGs, cooperatives, and other groups for capacity building, while institutions such as NFDB, NABARD, and ICAR bodies continue to support technical and enterprise development in alignment with this framework.”

4.21 On being asked about the measures are taken by the Department to promote Pearl Farming and Basa fish farming, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Department of Fisheries has undertaken various programmes, technical, and financial interventions to promote pearl farming and Basa (Pangasius) farming in the country, primarily under the umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Pearl farming is being promoted as a high-value, low-volume aquaculture activity suitable for diversification and income enhancement. Financial Assistance is being provided for establishment of freshwater pearl culture units, including pond preparation, nucleus implantation units, and training, assistance for hatchery development and production of quality mussel seed. Training programmes for farmers on surgical implantation techniques, post-operative care, and farm management has been carried out by the ICAR Fisheries Institutes such as ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), College of Fisheries and State Agriculture Universities. Under PMMSY, 2307 units have been approved under Bivalve cultivation (including mussels, clams, pearl etc.) amounting Rs. 461 lakh.

Basa (Pangasius) farming is also promoted as a fast-growing, high-density aquaculture practice suitable for commercial production under PMMSY. For Basa farming, emphasis is laid on quality seed production, biosecurity measures, water quality management, feed efficiency, and high-density culture systems to enhance productivity. In addition, support is extended for value addition, cold chain development, and market linkages, including export facilitation in coordination with Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). These interventions aim to increase farmers’ income, promote entrepreneurship, and ensure sustainable aquaculture development.”

4.22 On being asked by the Committee about the measures taken by the Department for the development of seaweeds and the budget allocated for the same, the Department submitted the following reply:

“India, with its vast coastline of over 11,098 kms and an Exclusive Economic Zone of more than 2.4 million square kilometers, is strategically positioned to be a global leader in the Blue Economy. Seaweed offers a huge opportunity of alternate livelihood to coastal communities including fishers, fish farmers and engages many

women across the value chain. The cultivation of seaweed has been promoted by the DoF, GoI and under the Blue Revolution scheme (implemented during 2015-20) and it is also being taken up under the ongoing flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMMSY).

The Department of Fisheries, under the PMMSY has approved seaweed projects worth Rs.197.17 crore for promoting the cultivation through rafts and monolines/tubenets in the coastal states and Union Territories, as well as training & capacity building, awareness programs, R&D projects, etc. The R&D projects for the various ICAR and CSIR institutes have been supported (with an investment of Rs. 46.5 million) with 100% central share, primarily for seed plant production, pilot-scale farming of commercially valuable seaweeds and studies for assessment of potentiality of seaweed farming in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands etc. The pilot projects for feasibility assessment and promotional activities along Kori, Padala and other selected locations along Kutch Coast, Gujarat has also been supported under PMMSY and taken up through ICAR-CMFRI, CSMCRI and private entrepreneur, which have shown very promising results with great participation of locals in such a remote location.

For structured development in the seaweed sector, the hub and spoke model was advocated by the experts, which has also been supported under PMMSY for development of dedicated production and processing seaweed clusters and development of a Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs. 127 crore. The Seaweed Park includes promotion of seaweed cultivation in 136 coastal fishing villages in 6 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and it will involve and engage manpower of more than 8,800 people.

Lakshadweep Islands possessing a large lagoon area of 21,290 Ha around inhabited islands, with clear, nutrient rich, and well circulated waters ideal for seaweed growth at much faster rate than in other regions. Hence it is declared as Seaweed Cluster for promotion under PMMSY.

On the policy and administration fronts, subject matter of seaweed cultivation and its related activities have been allocated to the Department of Fisheries, GoI under the Allocation of Business Rules (AoBR). Subsequently, a Guidelines for importing seaweed germplasm has been issued by the Department. Besides, the Niti Ayog has also launched a Seaweed Policy Report for the overall development of this sector.

In addition to Ministry of Fisheries, various other ministries form an integral part of seaweed development. The Department has therefore set up an institutional mechanism for ensuring overall coordination and monitoring of various activities of this important and emerging sector through National level Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee.

The Mandapam Regional Centre of the CMFRI has been notified as the Centre of Excellence for promoting seaweed farming and research. Centre of Excellence will serve as a national hub for innovation and development in seaweed cultivation, focusing on refining farming techniques, establishing a seed bank, ensuring

sustainable practices, developing value-added product innovations (in food, feed, biofuels, pharma, cosmetics), Offshore industrial-scale farming initiatives, and so on.”

L. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE FISHERY SECTOR

4.23 The Committee desire to know about the measures taken by the Department to bring women to the forefront in fisheries sector by way of appointing them as Matsya Sakhis and the budget allocated to women self-help groups in fishery sector. On being further asked about the number of women Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPO) in the country particularly in rural areas, the Department submitted the following reply:

“The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) implemented by this Department inter-alia envisages engagement of a total of 3477 Sagar Mitras through outsourcing on contractual basis during the scheme period and deploy them at the rate of one Sagar Mitra per coastal fishing village in the maritime States/UTs. These Sagarmitra act as an interface between the Government and fisheries and as a first person of contact for any marine fisheries related demands/services of fishers. Efforts are made by the Department to engage Matsya Mitras in inland fisheries sector in PMMSY Phase-II. The States/UTs will be advised to engage women as Matsya Mitras in inland fisheries sector. There are 41 active women FFPOs are there in the country working in the fisheries sector.”

PART-II

OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE

The Committee, note that the budget allocation of the Department of Fisheries from FY 2022-23 has been increasing over the years, however the capacity of the Department to utilise the allocated funds has been continuously decreasing which was only 67.84% in the FY 2024-25. The reasons, stated by the Department, which are responsible for the shortfall in utilization of the allocated budget since 2021-22 includes Notification of alternative funds flow mechanism by the Department of Expenditure, Notification of SNA and SPARSH which made the fund flow slower, delay in preparedness of the States/UTs for adoption of new system of fund flow, delay in submission of viable proposals by the States/UTs, Restriction on instalment of central share of 25% of the central share approved under Central Sector proposals, slow pace of project implementation by States/UTs, delay in contribution of state share. The Department has also stated that the fund utilization under PMMSY is directly related to the pace of funds utilization and implementation by all the States/UTs and this dependency accumulates the central liability.

The Committee, note that, the reasons cited by the Department for slow utilisation of allocated funds continue to be similar to those observed during the financial year in which these financial initiatives were introduced. While the Department has undertaken a number of measures to address these issues, the anticipated improvement in fund utilization appears to be gradual, as reflected in the continuing shortfall since FY 2022-23.

The Committee, is of the opinion that for the development of fishery sector in the country, it is imperative that the allocated funds are completely utilised so that the policies and schemes of the Department are successfully implemented on the ground. As recommended by the Committee earlier also, the Committee, again recommend that the Department should revisit their policy/financial procedures with a result-oriented mindset and look out for gaps and address the

issues causing hindrances. The Department, may, if necessary, review their procedures and take necessary steps accordingly to ensure that the funds allocated for schemes are completely utilised.

2. INCLUSION OF SOCIAL WELFARE COMPONENTS IN THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA-II

The Committee have been informed that Department of Fisheries in consultation with various States/UTs and Stakeholders has formulated a proposal for continuation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana-II for the next five years i.e. 2026-27 to 2030-31 co-terminus with the 16th Finance Commission. The Committee acknowledge that PMMSY is a very important scheme implemented by the Department for the benefit and development of fishery sector in the country and therefore recommended extension of the scheme in their 3rd report on DFG (24-25). The Committee, appreciate this effort taken by the Department for extension of the scheme, however, the Committee feel that the extended PMMSY-II should also include components which can address the social and economic issues faced by the small scale and traditional fishermen and fishery labourers (khalasi) of the country.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that for the social and economic wellbeing of all fishermen including fishery labourers (khalasi) who are engaged in various fishing activities and work on fishing boats, their housing, health and education (educational loans and scholarships) needs may be addressed and provided for in a more concrete manner. If required, the Department may also co-ordinate with the Ministry of Labour in regard to providing social security measures to fishery labourer's engaged in different fishing related activities. The Committee further, recommend that, in the extended PMMSY-II, a robust and foolproof mechanism may be developed to ascertain that the funds allocated to States/UTs under the scheme, reach the intended beneficiaries. Necessary steps may also be taken to ensure seamless transfer of funds/DBT to intended beneficiaries such as small/traditional fishermen, SC/ST and women fishermen so as to strengthen their socio-economic wellbeing.

3. PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA KISAN SAMRIDDHI SAH YOJANA (PMMKS-SY)- REGISTRATION OF FISHERMEN AND AVAILING INSTITUTIONAL CREDIT AND INSURANCE.

The Committee have been informed that under PMMKS-SY, development of National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) is an important initiative which aims at formalization of the fisheries and aquaculture sector through creation of work based digital identities and database for all the stakeholders. It will also serve as a one stop solution for access to institutional credit, strengthening of fishery co-operatives, incentivizing aquaculture insurance, performance-based incentives, fisheries traceability systems and adoption and expansion of fish and fishery products safety and quality assurance system. The Committee, note that till date out of 3 crore fishermen of the country only 29 lakh fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders have been registered on NFDP. Further, out of 20 thousand lead applications received only 347 loans have been sanctioned by the banks and aquaculture insurance has been availed by 29 beneficiaries covering 98.56 hectares.

The Committee have been concerned with the plight of the small and marginal fishermen of the Country who are dependent on fishing activities for their survival and sustenance needs. Therefore, the Committee have earlier recommended for aquaculture insurance and provision of institutional credit to fishermen in their earlier reports. The Committee appreciate that these components have been addressed in the sub-scheme PMMS-SY, however, the Committee understand that formalization/registration of all the fishers and fishermen in the Country is crucial if these benefits are to reach the fishermen at large.

The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department may expedite the registration of fishermen under NFDP and taken necessary steps to ensure that the registered fishermen are made aware of the Department's aquaculture insurance and institutional credit provisions so that they can avail them and thus get protected against the private lenders who provide credit at exorbitant interest rates.

4. REGIONAL CENTRES OF NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NFDB)

The Committee have been informed by the Department that setting up regional offices would enable closer interaction with State Fisheries Departments, Fish Farmers' Producer Organizations (FFPOs), cooperatives, and other stakeholders which would also facilitate monitoring of schemes and programme implemented by the Government thereby ensuring more responsive and context-specific interventions. The Department further stated that, regional presence would facilitate regular training programmes, demonstrations, and technology dissemination, which would enhance productivity and promote adoption of best management practices.

The Committee, is of the opinion, that opening up of Regional Centres of NFDB in other States will help in development of Inland fisheries by localising technical support, development of infrastructure and post-harvest facilities, increase productivity and would also speed up the utilisation of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Fishers and Fish Farmers of other States would have easy access to training and capacity building and such centres will also facilitate administrative convenience. The Committee, note that Inland aquaculture contributes about 80% of the total fish production and has immense potential for employment generation and development of fisheries in the country.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that regional centres of NFDB may be opened in prominent cities of all the major fish producing States/UTs and particularly Patna and Nagpur to boost Inland fisheries. The Committee, further recommend that the Department of Fisheries may also write to States/UTs as seek their willingness for setting up such regional centres in their respective States/UTs.

5. FISHERIES INSTITUTES - UTILISATION OF FUNDS AND STAFF STRENGTH

The Committee have been informed by the Department that the budget estimates and revised estimates of the Fishery Institutes have been reduced over the last five financial years due to less expenditure made by the Fisheries Institutes. Further, out of the total funds allocated to Assistance to Fisheries Institutes, more than 81% of the funds are earmarked to two institutes namely Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET), who spend a major amount on the operation and maintenance of its 14-fishery survey and training vessels, however, since 2024-25 only two vessels are in operation.

The Committee understand that fishery institutes play a crucial role in providing the necessary technological, engineering, research and survey related backup which is an important aspect for the growth and development of fishery sector in the Country. However, the Committee note that the utilization of funds allocated to the Department has been lower than anticipated, which has, in turn, led to reductions in the budgetary allocations for Fishery Institutes at the Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates stages. The Committee, also note that the overall sanctioned strength of the Department of Fisheries including Headquarters, four subordinate offices/institutes and two autonomous body/regulatory authority is 1298 posts. However, 671 posts are vacant, which constitutes a substantial vacancy of 50%.

The Committee have been concerned about the smooth functioning of all the fishery institutes and have earlier also recommended that the Department may take corrective measures in this regard. However, the Committee, feel that the issues regarding underutilisation of funds and staff vacancy still persist and the reasons given by the Department are also similar to as given earlier. The Committee, considering the importance of these Institutes in the Development of Fishery Sector in the Country, recommend

that the Department engage a result-oriented approach to address all the issues faced by fishery institutes and ensure that underutilisation of funds does not become the reason for its budget being cut down by the M/o Finance. Further, the Department may also take necessary steps to fill up the vacant posts in all the fishery institutes and ensure their effective and smooth functioning.

6. SURRENDERING FUNDS UNDER SCHEDULED CASTES SUB PLAN (SCSP) AND TRIBAL SUB PLAN (TSP)

The Committee have been consistently expressing their concern with respect to non-utilisation of total funds allocated to the Department of Fisheries under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) leading to surrendering of allocated funds.

The Department have stated various reasons for such underutilization such as

- i) Non- utilization of funds by the States/UTs against the Mother Sanction issued.
- ii) PMMSY being a demand driven scheme, the surrender of funds under SCSP head of PMMSY is due to non-receipt of sufficient proposals form the States/UTs.
- iii) Due to lack of land availability and Margin Money, most SC/ST population is not able to take benefits of the Schemes.
- iv) Limited extension of PMMSY for implementation during 2025-26 with a central outlay of Rs. 700 crores, restricted to the execution of mandatory activities.

Similar reasons were cited by the Department during the examination of the 3rd (2024-25) and 10th DFG (2025-26) of the Department by the Committee, and the Committee while appreciating the efforts had recommended that the Department may device some incentive mechanism so as to encourage States/UTs to utilize the allocated funds and submit proposals under PMMSY.

The Committee feel that, for betterment of the socio-economic conditions of the SC/ST population in the country, it becomes imperative that they are able to reap benefits of all the Schemes intended for their welfare. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department may explore other measures and initiatives to ensure fund utilization by States/UTs under SCSP and TSP such as:

- i) Identification of Genuine SC/ST beneficiaries and beneficiary centric approach.
- ii) Non lapsable funds under SCSP and TSP without any diversions.
- iii) Tailor made schemes/projects exclusively benefitting the SC/ST population.
- iv) Simplification of application procedures for SC/ST.
- v) Formation of Fish Farmer Producer Organisation and Self-Help Group exclusively for SC/ST.
- vi) Co-ordinate with States/UTs and explore the possibility of making land available for SC/ST under the proposed extended PMMSY-II.
- vii) Relaxation may be given in the margin money required to avail loans for projects to SC/ST.
- viii) Development of Management Information System (MIS) exclusively to track utilization of SC/ST funds.
- ix) Reserving of land (panchayat) for SC/ST, for development of Amrit Sarovar's and reserving some percentage of Amrit Sarovar's for SC/STs.

The Committee, feel that the Department may engage a result-oriented approach so that the benefits of the schemes of the Department for SC/ST welfare reach the intended beneficiaries and funds allocated for them are utilized in full, thereby adding to their socio-economic upliftment.

7. FISHERY SURVEY OF INDIA (FSI) – ENHANCING THE BUDGET AND REPLACEMENT/MODERNISATION OF ITS VESSELS

The Committee, note that Fishery Survey of India conducts systematic marine fishery resource surveys in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and adjoining waters to assess fishery resources and provide scientific inputs for sustainable exploitation. The survey's conducted by FSI are demersal survey, oceanic tuna survey, deep-sea shrimp survey, deep-sea squid survey, marine plastic and mammal survey. However, the Committee have been informed by the Department that the current FSI vessels are between 21 to 47 years old leading to frequent mechanical fatigue and unscheduled repairs and longer docking periods during repairs. Currently, FSI conducts all its survey operations without a dedicated buffer vessel, which again puts a lot of constrains on the successful operations of FSI. As stated by the Department, FSI survey data also act as India's scientific proof in international forums such as the IOTC and WTO, which helps in protecting our fishing rights and negotiate better trade deals globally. Further, these surveys will act as a health report of our oceans, indicating how much fish can be harvested sustainably to ensure we meet national production targets.

The Committee, acknowledge the pivotal role of FSI and understand that the surveys conducted by FSI play a very important role in accumulating the required information and data which will facilitate sustainable harvesting of fishery resources of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone which has immense deep-sea fisheries potential. The Committee, therefore recommend that the budget allocation of FSI should be enhanced sufficiently so that FSI is able to function properly and carry out its mandate effectively. The vessel fleet of FSI should be modernized and old vessels should be replaced with sufficient number of new vessels and a buffer fleet should be maintained to address periodical maintenance and emergency breakdowns.

8. KISAN CREDIT CARDS (KCC)- MAXIMISING THE REACH AMONGST FISHERMEN

The Department has stated that till date a little above 5 lac Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) have been sanctioned to fishers and fish farmers, but, no year wise

targets have been fixed in this regard. However, an overall national target of covering 50 lac fishers and fish farmers have been envisaged under the KCC scheme. The Committee, note that the country has around three crore fishers and fish farmers who are engaged in various fishing related activities, and KCC plays a vital role providing these fishermen access to short-term institutional credit for the expenses incurred on seed, feed, medicines, fuel, labour, maintenance of ponds, cages, Re-circulatory Aquatic Units (RAS) and other requirements. The Committee would also like to emphasize that the target of 50 lakh KCCs set by the Department may need to be further increased in light of the large population of fishermen in the country.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that KCC should be given to all the fishers/fishermen of the country and the target should be set accordingly. The Department may therefore take necessary steps in this regard and ensure that the reach of KCC is maximized and ensure that more and more fishers, fish farmers are provided with Kisan Credit Cards.

9. EXPORTS – STRENGTHENING TRACEABILITY AND ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF VIKSIT BHARAT 2047 FOR FISHERIES SECTOR

The Committee has been informed that in terms of quantity, seafood exports have seen a growth of 61.6 percent in volume over the decade and India's current share in global seafood exports stands at about 4%. Further, under the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Department of Fisheries envisages enhancing India's share in global seafood exports from 4 percent to 10 percent by 2047 and transforming India into a global maritime and seafood export leader with a resilient, sustainable and globally competitive fisheries sector. To achieve this vision the strategy of the Department is to focuses on strengthening the entire fisheries value chain through enhanced value addition, diversification into premium products, establishment of robust traceability systems, strategic branding and marketing, adoption of advanced technologies and improved sanitary and phytosanitary compliance.

The Committee understand that Disease Management, Certification and Traceability are very important areas which requires intervention so as to increase the export competitiveness of the Indian fisheries sector. The Committee, therefore, in their 70th report on “Employment Generation and Revenue Earning Potential of Fisheries Sector” and 20th report on “Development & Modernisation of Fishing Harbours” have recommended that measures should be taken in this regard. The Committee, appreciate that the Department has recently released the National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture 2025, which provides for establishment of a national digital traceability system for fisheries and aquaculture to ensure compliance with domestic and international regulations, promote food safety, enhance sustainability, and improve market access. The framework is a welcome initiative to modernize India’s fisheries and aquaculture sector, ensuring sustainability, food safety, and global competitiveness.

The Committee, appreciate the efforts taken by the Department in releasing the National Framework on Traceability which would definitely enhance the export competitiveness of the domestic fish production. The Committee, recommend that the implementation of the Traceability Framework should be expedited and awareness should be created regarding the same.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES- SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN RESIDING BESIDES MAJOR RIVERS

The Committee has been informed that Inland Aquaculture in India contributes around 80% of the total fish production in India. The Committee, understand that traditionally, fishing in inland water bodies has been a small-scale or subsistence activity for the fishermen communities residing alongside major rivers of the country and which also plays a major role in poverty alleviation, food security, women’s empowerment and protection of ecosystem and biodiversity. However, inland fisheries also face threats from natural

calamities and floods, climate change, pollution and urbanization. The Committee, note that numerous traditional fishing communities residing alongside rivers and are solely dependent on fishing activities for their sustenance needs.

The Committee, has been informed by the Department that for the benefits of such fishermen communities under PMMSY various measures such as provisions of boats, nets and gear, aquaculture inputs, cage culture, post-harvest infrastructure, accidental insurance etc. have been provided. The Committee, however feel that the Inland Aquaculture potential of the country is immense with its huge reservoirs, brackish waters, and major rivers and ponds. Inland fisheries is also the major contributor to the total fish production of the country, thus, development of Inland Fisheries will in turn benefit the Traditional fishermen communities who are engaged in fishing activities since decades.

The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department may in Coordination with States/UTs identify such communities and devise specific policies/schemes which target and concentrate specifically on the development of Inland fisheries keeping into mind the development of all such traditional fishing communities residing in the vicinity of major rivers, dams, reservoirs and brackish waters. Such a targeted intervention may help raise the socio-economic level of all such small scale and traditional fishermen of the Country. The Committee, also note that Fishery in waterlogged areas also referred as floodplain fisheries, is an important activity which provides for rural livelihood. These areas are characterized by prolonged seasonal inundation making them ideal for inland aquaculture. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department may identify such water-logged areas in all the States/UTs particularly in the States of Punjab (Malwa region), Gujarat (panchmahal), Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana (Bhiwani, Dadri, Jhajjhar), and take necessary measures to promote inland aquaculture, if possible, form clusters of such water-logged areas so that targeted initiatives and schemes can be devised for the development of such areas. The Committee further recommend that

concrete measures should be taken by the Department for the promotion of Ornamental Fisheries and Pearl Farming and saline water fisheries (zHINGA farming) amongst fishermen who are engaged in Inland Fisheries in all the States/UTs.

**New Delhi;
16th March, 2026
25 Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)**

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

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

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 17th February, 2026 from 1040 hours up to 1310 hours in Committee Room '2', Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi and the following were present:

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi - Hon'ble Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
3. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
4. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
5. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
6. Shri Dharambir Singh
7. Shri Dushyant Singh
8. Shri Sudhakar Singh
9. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
10. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

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

SECRETARIAT

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|----|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Dhiraj Kumar | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Maheshwar | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Prem Ranjan | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Ashwaghosh Bhaurao Lokhande | - | Under Secretary |

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

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi | – | Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Sanjiv Narain Mathur | – | Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor |
| 3. | Shri Sagar Mehra | – | Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries) |
| 4. | Dr. Bijay Kumar Behera | – | Chief Executive (NFDB) |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting convened for taking oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) in connection with examination of Demand No. 43 of the Demands for Grants (2026-27) pertaining to the Department of Fisheries. After welcoming the representatives of the Department, the Chairperson apprised them of the confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. After introduction by the witnesses, a power-point presentation was made by the Secretary, Department of Fisheries and the Committee were briefed about the Schemes and Programmes of the Department and also about its Budget Proposals and the proposed utilisation of funds. The presentation inter-alia covered the following points:

- a) Growth story and base of Indian Fisheries Resources.
- b) Schemes and Programmes of the Fisheries Sector.
- c) Investment and Outcomes of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- d) Financial and Physical progress of PMMSY.
- e) State-wise projects approved and central funds released under PMMSY.
- f) Year-wise funds allocation and expenditure under PMMSY.
- g) Allocation and Expenditure under PMMSY for Tribal Sub Plan, Scheduled Castes Sub Plan and North-Eastern States.
- h) Physical and Financial progress under Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund.
- i) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY)
- j) Funds allocated to the Department and Expenditure incurred during the last five years.
- k) Reasons for low utilization of funds.
- l) Review of financial progress of States/UTs by Department of Fisheries.
- m) Budget Announcements of 2025-26.
- n) Budget Announcements of 2026-27.
- o) New Initiatives of Department of Fisheries, Gol.

4. The Chairperson and the Members of the Committee raised several issues/points as briefly mentioned below and sought clarifications from the Department. The Points raised included, inter-alia;

- a) Decreasing budget allocation for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at BE stage and under-utilization of funds by the Department.
- b) Setting up of regional offices of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in other parts of the country particularly in Patna and Nagpur for development and growth of Inland Fisheries.
- c) Status of increasing the corpus fund of Accidental Insurance given to fishermen under Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS).
- d) Surrendering of funds under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and reasons for low approval of funds under PMMSY for States which have substantial Tribal population.

- e) Surrendering of funds under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and reasons for low approval of funds under PMMSY for States which have substantial Scheduled Castes population.
- f) Identification of SC/ST beneficiaries by the Department of Fisheries.
- g) Maintaining of buffer-fleet by Fishery Survey on India (FSI) and filling of vacancies in all the Fishery Institutes and Autonomous/Regulatory bodies under the control of the Department.
- h) Low Registration of fish farmers under National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP).
- i) Development of cold storages alongside rivers for small and marginal fishermen and socio-economic upliftment of traditional fishermen communities such as Nishad, Kevat and Mallah etc. who reside alongside these rivers.
- j) Road map for setting up of 500 Amrit Sarovars and plan for spending the budget allocated to it as has been announced in the current budget proposal.
- k) Promotion of fishing and development of deep-sea fishing in the UTs of Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu.
- l) Number of fishermen registered under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and the targets that have been set in this regard?
- m) Status of wet land conservation in 'Gokul Reservoir' in Bihar's Buxar District.
- n) Development and progress of Oceanic-Tuna Survey.
- o) Measures taken for decreasing pendency of Utilisation Certificates (UC).
- p) Development of Ornamental Fisheries.
- q) Active participation of women in fisheries sector and their appointment as 'Matsya Sakhis'.
- r) Containing the illegal fishing activities such as LED fishing and Bull Trawling and introducing a 'Bill' in this regard by the Department of Fisheries.
- s) Exploring the possibility of providing financial assistance/pension to the families of fishermen held up in foreign jails i.e. Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- t) Setting up of fish processing unit in Gadwa, Haryana.

- u) Availability of land for SC/ST fishermen who are unable to reap benefits of the Schemes.
- v) Increasing the number of Fishermen Cooperatives established in the Country.
- w) Doubling of Fish Farmers income and Employment Generation which are few of the objectives of PMMSY.
- x) Increasing 'Traceability' so as to boost exports and value of domestic production.
- y) Development of Pearl and Basa Farming.
- z) Effects of Free Trade deal signed with European Union (EU) and United States of America (USA) on the domestic fishermen and fish production.

5. The Representatives of the Department responded to some of the queries raised by the Members.

6. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for sharing valuable information with the Committee and directed them to furnish the requisite information on the points/items which were not readily available with them to the Secretariat by **21st February, 2026**, positively.

The Committee then adjourned.

(A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the Sitting has been kept separately.)

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2025-26)**

The Committee sat on Monday, 9th March, 2026 from 1530 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room No. 3, First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
4. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
5. Shri Kuldeep Indora
6. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
7. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
8. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
9. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
10. Shri Dharambir Singh
11. Shri Dushyant Singh
12. Shri Sudhakar Singh
13. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
14. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

15. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
16. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
17. Shri H.D. Devegowda
18. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
19. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav-Patil
20. Shri P. P. Suneer

SECRETARIAT

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|----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Dhiraj Kumar | – | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Maheshwar | – | Director |
| 3. | Shri Prem Ranjan | – | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Fauzi Badruddin | – | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration Draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2026-27) pertaining to the

- (i) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare);
- (ii) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);
- (iii) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries);
- (iv) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying);
- (v) Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and
- (vi) Ministry of Cooperation.

3. During deliberations, Members of the Committee suggested amendments to the recommendations of the draft Reports. They also suggested to convene sitting of the Committee again on 13.03.2026 to consider and adopt the draft Reports, which was agreed upon by the Chairperson of the Committee.

The Committee then adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2025-26)**

The Committee sat on Friday, 13th March, 2026 from 0940 hours to 1120 hours in Committee Room No. 3, First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
3. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
4. Shri Kuldeep Indora
5. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
6. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
7. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
8. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
9. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
10. Shri Murasoli S.
11. Shri Dharambir Singh
12. Shri Dushyant Singh
13. Shri Sudhakar Singh
14. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
15. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
16. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

17. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
18. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
19. Shri H.D. Devegowda
20. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
21. Shri Madan Rathore
22. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Dhiraj Kumar – Joint Secretary
2. Shri Maheshwar – Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan – Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Fauzi Badruddin – Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration of the following draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2026-27): -

*(i) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

*(ii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

*(iii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

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

*(v) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

*(vi) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

3. The Committee after considering the draft Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries); suggested the amendments/changes as shown in Annexure-D.

4. The Committee, thereafter adopted the draft Report mentioned at para 2 (iv) above with modifications/amendments as listed at Annexure D.

5. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports in the light of modifications suggested and present the Reports to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

****Matter not related to this Report***

Annexure-D

During the Sitting held on 13.03.2026, the Members made the following suggestions to be incorporated into the DFG (2026-27) Draft Report of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries)

Rec No.	Para/page	Amendments Incorporated
1	2 nd para, pg.75	The Committee, note that, the reasons cited by the Department for slow utilisation of allocated funds continue to be similar to those observed during the financial year in which these financial initiatives were introduced. While the Department has undertaken a number of measures to address these issues, the anticipated improvement in fund utilization appears to be gradual, as reflected in the continuing shortfall since FY 2022-23.
2	2 nd para, pg.76	The Committee, therefore, recommend that for the social and economic wellbeing of all fishermen including fishery labourers (khalasi) who are engaged in various fishing activities and work on fishing boats, their housing, health and education (educational loans and scholarships) needs may be addressed and provided for in a more concrete manner. If required, the Department may also co-ordinate with the Ministry of Labour in regard to providing social security measures to fishery labourer's engaged in different fishing related activities. The Committee further, recommend that, in the extended PMMSY-II, a robust and foolproof mechanism may be developed to ascertain that the funds allocated to States/UTs under the scheme, reach the intended beneficiaries. Necessary steps may also be taken to ensure seamless transfer of funds/DBT to intended beneficiaries such as small/traditional fishermen, SC/ST and women fishermen so as to strengthen their socio-economic wellbeing.
5	2 nd para, pg.79	However, the Committee note that the utilization of funds allocated to the Department has been lower than anticipated, which has, in turn, led to reductions in the budgetary allocations for Fishery Institutes at the Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates stages.
8	1 st para, pg.83	The Committee would also like to emphasize that the target of 50 lakh KCCs set by the Department may need to be further increased in light of the large population of fishermen in the country.
10	3 rd para, pg.85	The Committee, also note that Fishery in waterlogged areas also referred as floodplain fisheries, is an important activity which provides for rural livelihood. These areas are characterized by prolonged seasonal inundation making them ideal for inland aquaculture. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department may identify such waterlogged areas in all the States/UTs particularly in the States of Punjab (Malwa region), Gujarat (panchmahal), Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana (Bhiwani, Dadri, Jhajjar), and take necessary measures to promote inland aquaculture, if possible, form clusters of such water-logged areas so that targeted initiatives and schemes can be devised for the development of such areas. The Committee, further, recommend that concrete measures should be taken by the Department for the promotion of Ornamental Fisheries, Pearl Farming and Saline Water Fisheries (Zhing Farming) amongst fishermen who are engaged in Inland Fisheries in all the States/UTs.