

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2857
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
PRODUCTION OF NATURAL PEARLS
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no production of Natural Pearls since 1961 resulting in its huge import from China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the production of natural pearls?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEONARAYANYADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): According to Gem and Jewellery Council, mostly freshwater pearls are being imported for a value of about Rs.25-35 crores per annum.

(c): The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi and Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed indigenous methods for the production of cultured pearls, which mimic natural pearls. This technology is being transferred to end users in different parts of the country. Besides, regular training programmes in pearl culture technology are being conducted by both of these institutes. In addition, CMFRI has also taken an initiative to augment pearl oyster stocks in natural beds by sea ranching in the Gulf of Mannar since 1985.