

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:113
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
PROTECTION OF SEA HORSE FISH
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian scientists have developed a new technology for protection of sea horse fish;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which new technology is likely to be helpful for fishermen;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to lift ban imposed on export of the said fish; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, has developed a technique for breeding and seed production of sea horse in hatcheries under controlled conditions. Sea ranching of hatchery produced seeds of sea horse in large numbers would lead to stock enhancement, conservation and management of this resource.

(c) The sea horse is also an ornamental fish, with medicinal properties, with high value in the market. There is scope for self employment and income generation by fishermen taking to its culture.

(d) & (e): Sea horse has been included in the Schedule -I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby giving them highest degree of protection. Collection/fishing/hunting of this species is prohibited under the Act. The export of the species is also prohibited. The Government has no proposal for lifting the ban imposed on export of the species.