

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2830
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has launched India's first Open Sea Cage Project, an eco-friendly method of fish farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein; and
- (c) the total estimated capacity of fish that can be reared in the open sea cage?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, has launched 'Open Sea Cage Project on Finfish Farming' at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The site was selected after scientific evaluation of its suitability. The cage with HDP net of 15 m diameter and 6 m height was installed in the sea along with a surrounding net to avoid predators. The total weight of cage is around 1500 kg. The cage was fabricated right on the beach and manually launched on 30.04.2007. About 10,000 fish seeds of Asian seabass weighing 50 g each were released into the cage. The fishes were fed with trash fish twice a day in tune with their body weight. The total cost of cage works out to the tune of Rs.6.5 lakh. During 40 days of cage culture period, the fish attained a weight of 250-450 g each with a mean weight of 300 g. In due course of time, it is also planned to launch similar type of cage at Mandapam, Diu and Ratnagiri.

(c) The total estimated capacity of fish that can be reared in the Open Sea Cage is around 15,000 fingerlings of fish with an anticipated production of 10 tonnes of fish within a period of 4-5 months.