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Title: Need to set up mud crab and seabass hatchery in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Government of Andhra Pradesh conceived to set up first of its kind mud crab and seabass hatchery in a sprawling 10 acres of land with international standards in Suryalanka, Guntur district. Project has been jointly taken up by Government of Andhra Pradesh, National Fisheries Development Board, MPEDA and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture. The objective of the proposed hatchery is to supply quality fish and mud crab seed to more than 7,000 hatcheries in Andhra Pradesh. Seed development will boost seabass and mud crab production and step up exports from Andhra Pradesh to countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, etc. Seabass has great demand internationally and there is also demand for this in the domestic market. There is a huge potential for increasing crab production in Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh farmers are finding it difficult to get quality virus-free seed from neighbouring States. For example, farmers are getting mud crab seed from Sirkali in Tamil Nadu by spending crores of rupees. However, most of the seed die in transportation. To avoid this, CM of Andhra Pradesh conceived the idea of setting up of hatchery at Suryalanka and once it is completed farmers will get fine quality seed at much lesser price with minimum transportation cost.

Land has been handed over to RGCA and it has prepared DPR and submitted it to Ministry of Commerce. Now, Report is pending with Ministry of Commerce for execution.

Hence, I request Minister of Commerce to clear the project immediately.