

Deterioration in quality of fish/prawn seeds

653. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that the quality of fish/prawn seeds is getting deteriorated due to factors like in-breeding leading to lesser growth of fish in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide quality fish/shrimp/prawn seeds at reasonable prices to fisheries in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to develop improved strains of captive brood bank in order to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Poor management in seed production and use of pond reared brood stock lead to increased disease risk, reduced growth rate, etc. on account of in-breeding. Surveys conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in different States indicate that presently, it is reported only in freshwater fishes and prawns.

(c) Following steps have been taken to provide quality seed for fish/shrimp/prawn culture:

- (i) Genetically improved rohu 'Jayanti' disseminated to different states including Andhra Pradesh for quality improvement of hatchery stocks.
- (ii) Quality seed of Silver Pompano is being supplied to selected coastal pond farmers of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) Quality seed of Golden Mahseer and Rainbow Trout is being supplied to the farmers and the State Government Fisheries Departments.
- (iv) Importation of SPF *Litopenaeus vannamei* with proper biosecurity measures and strict implementation of guidelines on its seed production by approved hatcheries have ensured supply of quality seed to the farmers in coastal States including Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) Quality seed material of cultivable carp species are being provided to the fish farmers and the State Government Fisheries Departments by several centres of the ICAR Mega Seed Projects over the years.

(d) Other measures taken for development of improved strains of captive brood stock are as follows:

- (i) National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) has been set up through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) at Bhubaneswar to ensure availability of quality brood stock to hatcheries for production of good quality seed.
- (ii) A National Marine fin fish Brood Bank has been established by ICAR to improve the captive brood stock of Cobia and silver Pompano.
- (iii) Hungarian strains of common carp and scale carp have been imported and their brood stocks are being maintained for seed production and grow out culture. The seed of the improved variety of Hungarian common carp was distributed for field demonstration in farmers' ponds in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
- (iv) Introduction of Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) brood stock through proper bio-security measures for seed production and culture of quality shrimp has been taken up to solve this problem.

Conservation of indigenous livestock

654. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has formulated any plan for conservation of indigenous livestock breeds native of Andhra Pradesh like Ongole and Punganur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for cattle breed improvement in Andhra Pradesh through large scale cross breeding, upgradation of local buffaloes with Murrah, selective breeding in indigenous cattle like Ongole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA) : (a) and (b) In order to compliment and supplement the efforts made by the States and UTs for conservation of indigenous breeds including native of Andhra Pradesh government has formulated and implementing following schemes having focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds:

- (i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development
- (ii) National Dairy Plan
- (iii) Central Herd Registration Scheme – Ongole Unit
- (iv) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (till 2013-14)