

(b) Total area under gram during the current year is estimated at 83.58 lakh hectares which is lower by 15.8% as compared to estimated gram area of 99.27 lakh hectares during 2013-14.

(c) With a marginal decline of 1.50 lakh hectares over the last year's area of 304.73 lakh hectares, total area under wheat during 2014-15 is estimated 303.23 lakh hectares. However, as compared to total wheat area of 53.80 lakh hectares in the Madhya Pradesh during 2013-14, area under wheat in the State is estimated at 57.48 lakh hectares which is higher by 3.68 lakh hectares than the last year.

Big business houses venturing in fishing sector

491. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent past, several big Indian business houses have ventured in fishing sector by leasing in big foreign vessels employing international crew, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these vessels are allowed mid-sea export without landing their catches on the shore and also that there is huge loss of the export based revenue earned by Government;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the mechanism existing with Government to record the quantity of fish they take from Indian waters; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent small fishermen getting affected by such big players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE :
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no policy which permits foreign vessels to fish in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Report on marine fisheries sector

492. DR. T. N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received several representations against the Dr. B. Meena Kumari Commission report on marine fisheries sector stating that it would adversely affect the livelihood of fishermen, if so, details thereof and the response of Government thereto;

(b) whether the Commission had consulted the stakeholders before submitting the final report, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fisheries sector has ample opportunity to generate employment and cause economic growth in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of persons engaged in fisheries in the country, State-wise; and

(e) the details of plans/schemes undertaken/proposal for development of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a number of representations regarding the Report of the Expert Committee constituted under the chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meena kumari for comprehensive review of deep-sea fishing Policy and Guidelines. According to the Expert Committee report, the committee has consulted some stakeholders on 31.10.2013 and obtained their views in making practical recommendations in the proposed policy and guidelines. The report has been placed on the website of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for inviting comments from all stakeholders.

(c) and (d) Fisheries sector in India is a developing and growing sector which provides vast employment opportunities in the country. Fisheries have contributed 0.78% in the overall GDP during 2011-12. As per the Indian Livestock Census of 2003, there are 14.49 million people engaged in various fisheries related activities. About 75 per cent of the fishers are engaged in inland fisheries activities and about 25 per cent in marine fisheries activities. State-wise details of the number of persons engaged in different fishing occupations in the country is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(e) Fisheries is a State subject and the Union Government provides assistance to States through various schemes for development of fisheries *vide* the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries such as:

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations.
- (iii) Central Sector Scheme on National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen.

(iv) Central Sector Scheme on Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Fisheries Sector

(v) Central Sector Scheme on National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

Statement

Number of fishermen engaged in different fishing occupations

Sl. No.	State Name	Full Time	Part Time	Others
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117460	150735	304893
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1942	0
3.	Assam	105688	66422	61096
4.	Bihar	37079	58289	46702
5.	Chhattisgarh	7633	46624	30407
6.	Goa	2199	1682	2400
7.	Gujarat	83677	36984	51698
8.	Haryana	2701	1435	108721
9.	Himachal Pradesh	628	574	558
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3343	1961	5212
11.	Jharkhand	5243	21441	22275
12.	Karnataka	14410	9876	54753
13.	Kerala	114756	32728	75626
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5450	17868	11021
15.	Maharashtra	19606	49677	49130
16.	Manipur	2967	4093	5182
17.	Meghalaya	2	494	2
18.	Mizoram	145	1351	1603
19.	Nagaland	43	0	0
20.	Odisha	35304	38821	61331
21.	Punjab	1556	1284	3719

Sl. No.	State Name	Full Time	Part Time	Others
22.	Rajasthan	675	974	1184
23.	Sikkim	1145	294	182
24.	Tamil Nadu	69343	43070	83211
25.	Tripura	3475	5569	8648
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14464	15818	17365
27.	Uttaranchal	52	182	126
28.	West Bengal	267944	446517	364618
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2630	7191	1175
30.	Chandigarh	186	141	351
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	4126	1376	1632
33.	Delhi	253	270	184
34.	Lakshadweep	4250	3810	1448
35.	Pondicherry	4691	2586	8029
TOTAL		933124	1072079	1384482

Source: 17th Live Stock Census 2003

Online agriplatforms for sale of agri produce

493. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will soon come out with guidelines to set up online agriplatforms to promote hassle-free sale of farm produce and thereby help farmers to get good returns, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is also considering to set up e-marketing portals to eliminate the role of middlemen and unfair trade practices, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) has approved a Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of