

Further, Government of India is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this mission all types of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged around 141 million ha. in last two decades.

Promoting fish production in the country

2917. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) proposes to develop a biosecure brood bank for high value finfish breeding and seed production programme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote open sea cage farming across maritime States to boost fish production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) has proposed to establish bio-secure brood bank for breeding and seed production programme of cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) and silver pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) at its Mandapam Regional Centre and Vizhinjam Research Centre respectively, with financial support from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to promote open sea cage farming are:—

- The ICAR-CMFRI is providing technical know-how and training to the farmers for establishing cage farms. Further, under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) component, the institute is providing cages, seed and feed as inputs to the farmers.
- The DADF is providing 50% subsidy to the maritime states for open sea cage farming under their Central Sector Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries having a component on 'Open sea cage culture'.
- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Ministry of Earth Sciences has designed 9m. diameter cages with multi-point mooring system, customized to withstand the Indian high sea conditions.

- The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) under the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has established sea cage farming facilities for demonstration and dissemination of cage aquaculture technology to the farmers and for broodstock development of high value marine finfish species.

Admission in Anand Agricultural University

2918. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government allows the students of Gujarat Technological University to take admission in Anand Agricultural University and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): No, Sir. The matter comes under the purview of the State Government.

Free of cost medicines for poor people

†2919. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which there has been decline in the prices of drugs after the efforts made by Government, the details thereof;

(b) the number of life-saving drugs and the extent to which their prices have been reduced;

(c) by when the target of providing free drugs to the poor people will be achieved; and

(d) whether Government has identified areas for this purpose, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) came into effect from 15/05/2013. National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM-2011) was adopted as the original Schedule I of DPCO, 2013. Subsequently, in March 2016, National List of Essential Medicines 2015 (NLEM-2015) was notified as Schedule I of DPCO, 2013. Government fixed the ceiling prices of 530 scheduled medicines under Original Schedule I of the DPCO, 2013 and 761 scheduled formulations/packs under Revised Schedule I.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.