

(b) The Insecticides Act, 1968 has been enacted to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings or animals, and for matters connected therewith. The Act provides provision for issuance of licenses to the retailers for sale of registered pesticides.

(c) and (d) There is no such information available with the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW). However, as per provision under Section 5 of the Act, the Government has constituted Registration Committee (RC). The Committee registers pesticides for manufacture/import/sale in the country after evaluating its safety to human health and environment. Further, technical reviews of registered pesticide/insecticide are being conducted regularly to evaluate its impact for their continued use. In addition, under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central and State Government have notified Insecticides Inspectors to carry out inspection of manufacturing, storage and sale points etc., draw samples of pesticides and analyze them with the help of notified Pesticide Analysts. Prosecution is initiated in competent courts of law in cases of violation of the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Fishing in coastal areas

1484. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in availability of fish in western coastal areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide fish famine package to support the fishing community in coastal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no such reports of decline in availability of marine fish in the western coastal areas of the country during the last three years. As per reports of various States / UTs of the western coast of the country the marine fish catch data during the last three years is given below:—

		(in 000' tonnes)		
Sl. No.	State/UT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17(P)
1.	Goa	114.70	107.07	113.56
2.	Gujarat	698.45	697.33	698.83
3.	Karnataka	399.82	411.74	398.93

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17(P)
4.	Kerala	524.47	516.75	447.28
5.	Maharashtra	463.59	434.12	462.75
6.	Daman and Diu	31.54	22.55	23.40
7.	Lakshadweep	13.19	15.94	29.80
TOTAL		2245.76	2205.5	2174.55

(P) Provisional.

(c) In order to promote fish conservation and sustainable management of fisheries, the Government of India notifies uniform fishing ban in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) beyond territorial waters on both the East and West Coast. The Department under the Central Plan Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries also provides relief to the fishers during the fishing ban period/lean fishing season.

Facilities and schemes for small and marginal farmers

1485. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various facilities and schemes of Government provided to the small and marginal farmers of the country in the last two years in order to empower them;

(b) whether Government has waived or planning to waive off farm loans of small and marginal farmers upto ₹1 lakh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture is a State subject. However, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the benefit of farmers of the country including small and marginal farmers. Guidelines of Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Rainfed Area Development envisage that at least 50% of the allocation is to be utilized for small and marginal farmers. Details of major schemes being implemented are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Government has taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing more and more farmers including small and marginal farmers within the institutional credit fold. These measures, *inter alia*, includes fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto ₹ 3.00 lakh @4%