

Implementation of welfare programmes for fishermen

2734. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any memorandum from National Fisherworkers Forum (NFF) or any other organisation for considering long standing demands of fishermen in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for implementation of various welfare programmes for the welfare of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) The Ministry had not received any Memorandum from National Fish Workers Forum(NFF) in the recent past. However, the Ministry had received a copy of the Representation /Memorandum submitted by National Fish workers Forum (NFF) during November, 2013 requesting, *inter alia*, for a separate Ministry for Fisheries, inclusion of fishermen in the SC/ST List, concessional loan to fisheries sector, waiver of loans during calamities, safety of fishermen through issue of ID cards, etc. There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government, to create a separate Ministry for Fisheries. The other issues does not directly fall under the ambit of this Ministry and have been forwarded to the concerned departments/State Governments, for taking appropriate action. The Ministry has already addressed the issue of ID card to fishermen by issuing biometric ID Cards to the Fishermen under "Central Sector Scheme(CSS) on Issuance of Biometric ID Cards to Marine Fishermen". So far, under this scheme 18,37,016 ID cards have been distributed to fishers by the State Governments/UTs.

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under the Restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries has been implementing National Scheme of Welfare for Fishermen as one of its components. Under this component, central financial assistance is provided based on the proposals submitted by the States/UTs/other implementing agency for taking up following welfare activities for fishers:

- (i) Saving-cum Relief (for both Inland and Marine Fishers) during fishing lean/ban season.
- (ii) Housing for fishers.

- (iii) Other basic amenities for fishers such as drinking water facility, construction of Community Hall with sanitation, etc.
- (iv) Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen, implemented in convergence with the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

Production of bio-fertilizer

2735. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of bio-fertilizer production units operating in various States of the country along with their installed capacity, as on date, State-wise including Jharkhand and Gujarat;
- (b) the details of the actual production in each of the said units during the last three years;
- (c) the details of the monitoring system to maintain a check on the quality of bio-fertilizers being sold in the country; and
- (d) the details of incentives being provided by Government for the production and encouraging the use of bio-fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The number of bio-fertilizer production units operating in various States including Jharkhand and Gujarat is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The Government of India has prescribed the specification of various Bio-fertilizers in Schedule III of Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO). Under Clause 19 of FCO, no person shall sell any bio-fertilizer, which is not of the prescribed standard. There are 22 notified bio-fertilizer testing laboratories in the country. Under the provision of FCO/ ECA, the State Governments are adequately empowered to take adequate action to check the quality of Bio-fertiliser. Any violation invokes administrative action under the FCO, 1985 and Penal action, which may extend to seven years under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(d) Government is encouraging and providing financial assistance for production of bio-fertilizers in the country through various Schemes of National Mission of Sustainable Development (NMSA)/ Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and supported by Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Indian Council of Agricultural Sciences (ICAR). The pattern of assistance is given in Statement-II (*See below*). The details of the incentives provided for commercial production of organic inputs including bio-fertilizers under National Project on Organic Farming is given in Statement-III.