

Under the Scheme, financial benefit of ₹ 6000/- per year will be provided to all Small and Marginal Farmer families having cultivable land holding upto 2 hectare. This financial benefit will be provided in 3 equal installments of ₹ 2000/- each in a period of every four months in a financial year. The benefit shall be admissible under the scheme w.e.f. 01.12.2018. The definition of a Small and Marginal landholder farmer family is comprising husband, wife and minor children who collectively own cultivable land upto 2 hectare as per land records of the concerned State/UT. Thus, a farmer, irrespective of age can avail this benefit of income support provided that his/her family is of small and marginal category and eligible as per the scheme guidelines.

Adverse effect of plastic waste in fisheries areas

617. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has recently found that fishing areas of Mumbai have highest plastic waste concentration in the country, which is adversely affecting fish and other sea food production in these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government has initiated or proposes to initiate to deal with this serious situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has recently found that fishing areas of Mumbai have highest plastic waste concentration in the country.

(b) It has been observed that mean value of non-biodegradable plastic waste in fishing areas along the Mumbai coast is 49 kg/km² while trawling during 2017, which is higher as compared to Ratnagiri, Cochin, Tuticorin and Vishakhapatnam.

(c) ICAR-CMFRI and Marine Biological Association of India organized a National Conference on Marine Debris (COMAD) during 11-12 April, 2018 at Kochi to create awareness on the adverse impacts and consequences of plastic waste.

Lack of technical know-how in deep-sea fishing

618. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a complete lack of technology and technical know-how in deep-sea fishing sector in the country;