

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;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan to overcome this lacunae due to which foreign companies are taking advantage of the situation;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMER WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) The technology and technical know-how in deep-sea fishing sector is available in the country.

(c) The National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017 recommends for enhancing the skills and capabilities of the traditional fishermen to undertake and popularize deep sea fishing. Accordingly, in order to assist traditional fishers in fabrication and procurement of new deep sea fishing vessels a sub-component 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' has been introduced by this Department under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' on 09.3.2017 and assistance is provided. The traditional fishermen are also provided assistance for imparting training and capacity building in Deep Sea Fishing and onboard handling of Tuna through Central Institutes, viz. Central Institutes of Fisheries Nautical Engineering Technology (CIFNET) and Fishery Survey of India (FSI).

(d) Central financial assistance of ₹ 32051.20 lakhs has been provided so far to States under the sub-component 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' under Blue Revolution Scheme for procurement of deep-sea fishing vessels. Training has been imparted to 213 traditional fishermen by CIFNET and FSI for deep-sea tuna fishing, on board handling and processing of catch and skill development in deep sea fishing. Besides, the Indian Coast Guard is empowered under the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 to apprehend foreign fishing vessels and foreign crew if found engaged in illegal fishing in Indian waters.

Pest attack on vegetable farming

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

(a) whether Government is aware that vegetable growers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country are facing new pests damaging their crops, low prices and rising input costs which is making them distressed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to protect the interest of vegetable growers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country?