

This Ministry *vide* letters dated 10.12.2018 and 10.07.2019 has taken a view and requested NDDB Board, which owns 100% shares of MDFVPL to *suo moto* accept the orders dated 15.4.2011 and 2.2.2015 of CIC and Delhi High Court and put the decisions of MDFVPL in public domain in the interest of transparency, accountability and also to increase trust of consumers. The decision of the Board of NDDB in this regard, is awaited.

Promoting cage fishing

2264. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is extending financial and technical support in promoting/starting and complementing cage fishing farming across the country, including Thoothukudi district in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government reviewed environmental and geographical aspects of the region where it proposes implementing cage fishing farming; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries is extending financial support for promoting/starting and complementing Open Sea Cage Culture and Cage/Pen Culture in inland water bodies across the country, including Tamil Nadu. The Department during the period from 2014 to 2019 has released ₹ 1,123.05 lakh for 770 Open Sea Cage Culture and ₹13,833 lakh for 13,460 Cages/Pens during 2014-2019. The Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is providing technical support to the Government of Tamil Nadu for cage farm to culture Cobia, Seabass and Lobster at Keezhavaipar and Sippikulam, Thoothukudi. The Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that in Thoothukudi district cage culture was implemented during 2015-16 with the funding support of National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) and under World Bank funded Fisheries Management and Sustainable Livelihood (FIMSUL-II).

(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) — Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) also supports in selecting suitable sites for cage

farming with consideration of environmental and geographical aspects before installation of sea cages. The broad criteria adopted for selecting a suitable site for Open Sea Cage Culture are: (i) water depth, (ii) current speed, (iii) domestic/industrial pollution free site, (iv) safe from severe cyclonic/natural calamities, and (v) minimum distance between the cages.

**Non-engagement of poultry farmers in operation
of battery cages**

2265. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any objections to the notification G.S.R. 335(E), dated 24.04.2019 issued by the Ministry on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Egg Laying Hens) Rules, 2019;

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

(c) whether nearly 24 States have agreed that battery cages are wrong and requested to ensure that no new poultry farmers engage in operation of battery cages; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Central Government issued draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Egg Laying Hens) Rules, 2019 vide G.S.R. 335(E) dated 29.04.2019 seeking public comments within a period of 30 days of publication of the said notification. The comments or suggestions from various poultry farmers, industries, Non-Governmental Organizations involved in Animal Welfare, Public, State Government etc. have been received on the draft Rules. The Rules have been notified in pursuance of the Direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Court, the comments and final Rule need to be submitted to Hon'ble High Court for finalization of Rules by the Hon'ble Court before it is finally notified. Hence, no further information in this regard can be provided in view of the matter is pending before the court.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.