

(b) 17,86,651 farmers and 29160 organisations have been connected through e-Pashu Haat Portal.

(c) 2.078 crores cattle and buffalo have been identified using animal unique identification number (AUID) and health cards have been issued.

Development of artificial fish habitats

38. SHRI G C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that fish habitats and coral reefs in coastal regions are depleting, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is willing to introduce programme for development of artificial fish habitats, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has included "Mariculture" under Blue Revolution Scheme, if so, the amount allocated during the year 2018-19;

(d) the measures taken to adopt reforms towards responsible and sustainable fisheries to optimally utilize fishery resources in the country; and

(e) the estimated fish production in the country during the year 2019?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) As per the information received from Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, the research analysis has indicated that the decline in coral reefs due to anthropogenic and climatic stressors. Decline in fish habitats due to lack of proper solid waste management especially non-degradable waste has been brought to the notice of the concerned State Governments.

(b) CMFRI is extending technical consultancy to State Fisheries Department of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat for installation of artificial fish habitats.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government has included "Mariculture" under Blue Revolution Scheme. The amount released for mariculture during the year 2018-19 is ₹ 89.45 lakhs.

(d) The measures taken to adopt reforms towards responsible and sustainable fisheries to optimally utilize fishery resources in the country are: (i) implementation of Minimum Legal Size (MLS) for capture fish as recommended by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), (ii) ban of destructive fishing practices such as bull trawling/pair trawling and use of poisons, chemicals etc. for fishing, (iii) restriction of fishing based on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and use of LED lights for fishing except for squid

jigging, (iv) mesh size regulation for fishing, (v) enforcing adoption of square mesh at cod end of the trawl nets, (vi) enforcing the uniform ban on fishing during monsoon period etc.

(e) The estimated fish production in the country during the year 2019-20 is 15 million metric-tonnes.

Assistance to fishermen

39. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes provided by Government for poor fishermen who do not have their own fishing boats;

(b) the other schemes of Government to provide sustainable livelihood to poor fishermen; and

(c) the financial help provided by Government to such fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a Central Plan Scheme on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' with 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen' as one of the components. The National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen provides financial assistance to fishers during the lean fishing season/fishing ban period especially for fishermen who do not have their own fishing boats. In addition, financial assistance is provided for construction of houses for fishers and creation of other basic amenities such as drinking water facility and community halls. Besides, insurance for fishers is also provided under the scheme.

(b) The scheme also aims for an integrated development and management of the fisheries sector covering inland fisheries, aquaculture, marine fisheries, mariculture, cage/pen culture and creation of fisheries infrastructure through central financial assistance towards sustainable livelihood to fishermen. The scheme has various broad components namely: (i) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, (ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, (iii) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities, (iv) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, (v) Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the Fisheries Sector and (vi) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and other need based interventions.

(c) The central financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UTs for onward transfer to the eligible fishermen as per the provisions of the Central Plan Scheme. The details of financial assistance provided by the DoF during last five years under the