altogether, an amount of ₹ 1586.53 crore has been provided by NABARD as subsidy benefitting 371566 beneficiaries upto 30.06.2019.

Detention of Indian fishermen in foreign countries

3860. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of Indian fishermen detained in the jails of various countries, country-wise; and

(b)   the details of the steps taken by Government to secure their release and bring them back to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) As received from Ministry of External Affairs, the details of Indian fishermen under the custody of neighboring countries (as on 5th July, 2019) are as under:-

1.   Sri Lanka   -   5 Indian fishermen

2.   Pakistan   -   209 Indian and believed to be Indian fishermen

3.   Iran   -   2 Indian fishermen

(b)   Government attaches highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. The matter of apprehension of Indian fishermen and their fishing boats is raised at the highest levels and strong protests are lodged in the countries concerned. It is reiterated to the countries concerned that the fishermen issue may be considered as a purely humanitarian and livelihood concern and there should not be any use of force under any circumstances. As a result of sustained diplomatic efforts by the Government, 2004 Indian fishermen and 380 boats have been released by Sri Lanka Government since May 2014. Similarly, persistent diplomatic efforts of the Government of India have led to release and repatriation of 2080 Indian fishermen and 57 Indian fishing boats from Pakistan's custody since 2014.

Availability of fertilizers to farmers

3861. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether adequate steps have been taken by Government to ensure the availability and timely supply of urea and other fertilizers to the farmers and if so, the details thereof;