

(b) whether the various milk supplier agencies sold milk at low rates in the cities during the lockdown period;

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, whether it is a shortcoming in Government policies that milk producing farmers were forced to sell their milk at a low price; and

(d) whether Government would like to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk to be paid to producing farmers and will bring penal provisions for purchasing the milk at less than that support price rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) There is no report that milk producing farmers were forced to sell milk at throw away price at ₹16-17 per litre. However milk procurement prices by private dairies in Maharashtra was reported to be low during lockdown period in comparison to last year. The average milk procurement price paid by major cooperatives during the lockdown period was ₹ 36.61 per litre 6% fat and 9% solids not fat (SNF).

(b) This Department does not have any information regarding selling of milk at low rates by various milk suppliers in the cities during lockdown period.

(c) No, Sir. The average milk sale price of toned milk by major cooperatives during April-June 2020 was ₹ 42.29/ litre, which was higher than corresponding months last year.

(d) This department does not regulate the prices of milk and milk products.

1515. [The Question was Cancelled.]

**Assistance to small farmers for promotion of fisheries**

1516. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme for assistance to small farmers for promotion of fisheries;

(b) the outlay for the scheme during the current financial year; and

(c) the number of farmers who have been assisted and the amount of funds which have been utilised during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) to (c) The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has launched a new flagship scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an estimated investment of ₹ 20,050 crores, including an estimated investment of ₹ 1494 crores during current financial year for its implementation in all States/Union Territories over a period of 5 years from Financial Year 2020-21 to 2024-25 for overall development of fisheries sector, which includes assistance fish farmers including small and marginal fish farmers. Besides, in order to address the infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during 2018-19 created dedicated fund namely Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total funds size of ₹ 7522.48 crore. The FIDF provides concessional finance to the Eligible Entities (EEs), including State Governments/Union Territories and State entities for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities.

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying had implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on "Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries" during past five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 for development of fisheries, benefitting large number of beneficiaries. The year-wise details of the central funds released under above said CSS during past five years are as under:-

Financial Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Amount released (₹ in crore)	416.81	424.11	420.78	675.52	640.26

#### **National Fisheries Policy (NFP)**

1517. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) the main objectives of the National Fisheries Policy;
- (b) whether Government has mechanism in place to prevent cruelty to the aquatic animals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and