

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1384
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH FEBRUARY, 2021

Impact of Corona on fisheries sector

1384 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) the impact of Corona on fisheries sector, particularly on exports;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made about losses that fisheries sector suffered due to COVID-19;
- (c) if so, the details thereof in the first five months of the current financial year, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether any help has been given to aquaculture sector under Atmanirbhar Bharat package;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) how Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is helping aquaculture sector to recover from the crisis caused by the pandemic?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI)

- (a) Like other sectors, fisheries sector has also been impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic including exports. The fish production and export was affected due to shortage of labour, lack of transportation facility, difficulties in sending export documents due to non-availability of courier services, containers and difficulties in clearing containers in importing countries. The demand reduced in the food service segment as a result of the closure of restaurants, canteens, institutional catering etc. due to the lockdown.
- (b) Yes, Sir. The Fisheries Research Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and a few State Governments have undertaken preliminary assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the fisheries sector.
- (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has estimated a loss of about ₹ 282.24 crore in marine fisheries, inland fisheries, shrimp hatcheries and aqua culture business activities in the State.
- (d) & (e) Yes, Sir. In view of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and in order to mitigate the impact of the crisis to fishers, fish farmers a number of measures were taken to facilitate the activities during the lockdown including exemption of operation of marine fisheries and aquaculture activities from the restrictions under the lockdown vide the 5th Addendum to the consolidated Guidelines dated 10th April, 2020 issued by Ministry Home Affairs.

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a flagship scheme namely “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)”- A scheme to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India as a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat relief package with a highest ever estimate investment of ₹ 20050 crores in fisheries sector over a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories. The PMMSY inter alia supports aquaculture activities such as establishment of hatcheries, construction of rearing ponds (nursery/seed rearing ponds), grow out ponds, inputs for aquaculture, construction of RAS/biofloc ponds etc.

(f) MPEDA has intervened at various levels to reduce the impact of COVID 19 pandemic in the aquaculture sector. Various measures have been taken by MPEDA in coordination with Central and State Governments to build confidence among the aquaculture farmers and provide them both forward and backward linkages. Several coordination meetings with State Government officials, farmers, exporters were held to mitigate the crisis.
