

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1820
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2024**

Promotion of seafood

1820 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of action taken to formulate a standard draft legislation which could be shared with all State Governments to guarantee the quality, cleanliness, and controlled promotion of seafood; and
- b) whether in the absence of a controlled marketing system for different seafood types creating a major barrier lack of knowledge about seafood hygiene among producers and consumers, resulting in the consumption of polluted seafood, which poses health hazards?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)**

(a) to (b): To ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food to the consumers, regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products including fish and fishery products are being carried out by the officers of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to ensure compliance of the standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder. In cases where the food samples including fish and fishery products are found to be non-conforming to the notified standards, penal action is initiated against the defaulting food business operators under the provisions specified under the above said Act. The enforcement of this Act and Rules and Regulations made there under primarily rests with State/UT Governments. In addition, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has specified safety standards for fish and fish products under Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011. Further, hygienic and sanitary practices followed by fish retail vendors and processing of fish and fish products are also specified under Food Safety and Standards Amendment Regulations, 2021.

Further, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) provides central financial assistance for setting up of post-harvest infrastructure including wholesale fish market, fish retail market, fish kiosk and ice plants/cold storages, refrigerated and insulated vehicles for seamless cold chain. Projects with a total outlay of Rs. 4865.70 crore have been approved since 2020-21 under PMMSY for creation of such infrastructure facilities in various States/UTs. In addition, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying have approved 17, Disease diagnostic centre and quality testing labs, 29 Mobile centres and testing labs and 6, Aquatic referral labs in various States/UTs.

The Central Aquaculture Authority (CAA) under Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying regulates the hatcheries and farming of shrimp and have banned the use of 20 antibiotics and other pharmacologically active substances used in brackishwater aquaculture. The CAA also issues certificates of compliance to aquaculture inputs that are free from adulterants and contaminants. Further, Department of Fisheries is supporting training and capacity building of fish farmers in the areas of better management practices to produce disease and residue free safe seafood, seafood hygiene and safe fish.