

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6352
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERY SECTOR
Semmalai Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to regenerate the fisheries sector through development of sustainable technology berthing facilities for fishing vessels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to provide liberal soft loan to fishermen and co-operative societies for strengthening infrastructure and post-harvesting operations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) and (b): The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme provides financial assistance to coastal State Government, Union Territories, Port Trusts, Fishermen Organizations/Associations, Private Entrepreneurs for development of new fishing harbours, fish landing centres to provide safe landing and berthing facilities. Besides, the Department under the CSS also provides financial assistance for expansion and modernization of fishing harbours and fish landing centres. Details the CSS are furnished at Annexure-I.

(c), (d) & (e): Yes, Madam. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), under the Ministry of Agriculture has schemes provide soft loans and details are as below:

- (i) 40% soft loan at 5% rate of interest to entrepreneurs/fishers to establish hygienic fish handling facilities (fishing harbour premises).
- (ii) 40% soft loan at 5 % rate of interest to fishers and registered societies to establish wholesale fish markets.
- (iii) 40% soft loan at 5% rate of interest for cold-chain development and processing of value added fish products to fishers and registered societies.

The NFDB has already briefed the State Fisheries Departments to encourage fishermen to avail of benefits under these schemes.