

F. No 48013/1/2012 – FY (Coord), Vol-III
Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Department of Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 08th May, 2020

Office Memorandum

Subject: Circulation of Monthly Summary of Principal activities and the important decisions taken by Ministries/Department to the Cabinet for the month of March & April 2020 in respect of the Department of Fisheries - Regarding

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Cabinet Secretariat's O.M. No. 1/26/1/2018 – Cab dated 19th February, 2020 on the above subject and to circulate herewith Monthly Summary of the Department of Fisheries for the month of March & April, 2020 containing principal activities undertaken, important decision taken and progress of action taken on the decision of the Cabinet/Cabinet Committees for kind information.

Encl: As above


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To,

All Members of Council of Ministers

Copy to:

- 1) The Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi **(Kind Attn: Shri Bhaskar Dasgupta, Director)**
- 2) The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister office, South Block, Secretariat Building, New Delhi – 110011.
- 3) The Secretary to the President, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi - 110004
- 4) The Secretary to the Vice-President, 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi - 110011
- 5) The Press Information Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Room No. 552, A Wing Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001
- 6) The Secretaries, all Ministries/Department of Government of India
- 7) The Adviser, Agriculture Vertical, NITI Aayog, NITI Bhawan, New Delhi

Copy for information to:

- 1) PS to Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- 2) PS to Hon'ble MOSs for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- 3) PPS to Secretary, Department of Fisheries
- 4) PPS to AS & FA
- 5) PPS to JSs, Department of Fisheries
- 6) Technical Director, NIC, DOF with a request to upload the enclosed document in the Department website.

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Important policy decisions taken and major achievement during the month of March, 2020

Fisheries Sector:

The draft Note for Cabinet on National Fisheries Policy, 2020 was circulated to the line Ministries/Departments on 2nd March, 2020 for furnishing their comments/suggestions. The draft National Fisheries Policy aims to provide for a comprehensive framework for responsible and sustainable development, management and regulation of capture and culture fisheries in the country. The policy aims to enable an accelerated development of fisheries sector including mariculture, freshwater aquaculture, brackish water aquaculture, landlocked saline/alkaline areas and post-harvest management ensuring safe food, nutritional security, gainful employment, economic prosperity and ecological health

Union Secretary Fisheries chaired a day pay National Review Meeting with all the States/UTs to review the physical and financial status and implementation progress of projects and activities under Blue Revolution and Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund on 12th March 2020 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. In addition to this, the issues pertaining to Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, World Bank Project for Fisheries Development, Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Bill, 2020, Aquatic Animal Disease & Health Management Bill, 2020, Fisheries Development Action Plan for Aspirational Districts, WTO Fisheries Subsidy Negotiation, Kisan Credit Card and DBT were discussed and deliberated in detail. The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary Fisheries from various States/UTs.

Draft CCEA note on Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was submitted on 16.3.2020 to the Cabinet Secretariat, PMO for comments and to the Ministry of Finance for obtaining and conveying the approval of Hon'ble Finance Minister before the submission of final note Cabinet on PMMSY before the Cabinet.

IOTC Compliance Questionnaire for India was submitted on 16th March, 2020 to Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

The Questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the International Plans of Action on Capacity, Sharks, Sea Birds, IUU fishing and strategies for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture in respect of India was completed and furnished to the FAO on 17th March, 2020.

In order to expedite the issuance of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to fishers and fish farmers for availing the credit facility to meet their working capital requirements, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance vide D.O. letter dated 17th March, 2020 was requested to instruct the concerned Banks to expedite the pending applications for Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to fishers and fish farmers.

The Department accorded approval to the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of fishing harbour at Juvvaladinne in Nellore District at a cost of Rs.288.80 crore with 50% central financial assistance amounting to Rs.144.40 crore under the Centrally Sponsored

Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries. First installment of the GOI share of Rs. 18 crore has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The Department had also approved the proposals of Government of Tamil Nadu for construction of three fishing harbours at a total cost of Rs. 420 crore restricting the interest subvention to the loan amount of Rs. 370 crore under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). The Department had also accorded in-principle approval to the proposals of Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of four fishing harbours at a total cost of Rs 1291.40 crore with restricting the interest subvention by GoI to the loan amount up to Rs. 600 crore under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund.

Union Secretary Fisheries made a presentation on 'Contribution and Strategy of Fisheries Sector towards reaccelerating towards \$5 trillion economy of India by 2024-25 on 18/3/2020 in the Department of Economic Affairs.

Besides, a meeting with World Bank officials to finalise the World Bank scheme "Blue Revolution necessary the potential of Aquatic Resources" was also held.

COVID-19

The following advisories/request were issued/made to the State Governments/UTs in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic:

- a) D.O letter was issued on 06th March, 2020 to all the State Governments/ Union Territories were requested to build confidence amongst the consumers, fishers and fish farmers and disseminate the message that fisheries has not been found to be involved in transmission of Corona virus to humans so far in any report globally and Corona associated common cold had no involvement of fishery or fishery products world over.
- b) An advisory issued on 24th March, 2020 to all States/UTs regarding inclusion of fish and shrimp in the list of essential commodities exempted from the lockdown and allowing movement of fish and fish products, fish seed & feed for the fish farmers and aquaculture farmers etc.
- c) Vide communication dated 26th March, 2020, all the States/UTs were requested to furnish the detailed report on immediate measures taken and proposed to be taken to mitigate the hardship faced by the fishers, fish farmers, fish workers and fish vendors during the ongoing 21 Days lockdown.
- d) An Advisory was issued on 28th March, 2020 to all Coastal States/UTs regarding measures to be taken for security and health concerns of migrant fish workers during 21 days' lockdown.

A meeting on 20/3/2020 was held with Hon'ble Finance Minister along with the Minister FAHD to apprise the problems being faced by fishers and fish farmers during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, I also I also attended a series of consultations /Meeting of the Empowered Group / Finance Ministry on Economic a welfare measures (on 31/3/2020) for working out a suitable relief package for traditional fishers, fish farmers, fish workers and fish vendors for livelihood support and relaxation of compliance measures for aquaculture industry during lockdown on account of COVID-19. The Hon'ble Finance Minister on 24/3/2020 announced 4 compliance relaxations relating to the Aquaculture industry which was appreciated by industry.

Fisheries International Cooperation

The Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries) attended the NGR meeting of Cluster on Fisheries Subsidies at WTO in Geneva, Switzerland held during 2nd-6th March, 2020.

A meeting was held in Prime Minister's Office on 02nd March, 2020 regarding position on Special & Differential Treatment (S&DT) under WTO negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies, which was attended by me and Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries). Thereafter, a proposal on India's position in this regard was developed and formal revised proposal was introduced in NGR during the above-mentioned meeting cluster.

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Important policy decisions taken and major achievement during the month of April, 2020

Fisheries Sector:

Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries) attended the Review Meeting convened by Secretary(DARPG) through video conferencing on 09th April,2020 regarding expeditious disposal of COVID-19 related public grievances.

Joint secretary (Marine Fisheries) and Joint Secretary(Inland Fisheries) reviewed the ongoing fisheries development programmes and activities of the National Fisheries Development Board(NFDB) through video conferencing on 16th April,2020 wherein all the senior officers of NFDB were present. The concerned ED were advised to prepare entrepreneurial model pertaining to their respective area such as cage culture, sea weed, mariculture, saline/alkaline aquaculture, cold water fisheries, etc.

The Department issued the Model Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) on 18th April, 2020 for marine fisheries for Coastal States and UTs while allowing fishing during lockdown period subject to instructions contained in MHA's order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 10th April,2020 to ensure social distancing and undertaking requisite precautions in view of COVID-19.

Union Secretary Fisheries attended a meeting on COVID-19 preparedness in PMO on 17th April, 2020 where preparedness strategies for the marine and inland fisheries sector and likely support measures were discussed.

He also attended another meeting in PMO on 21st April, 2020 of the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGOS) on Rural and Agriculture, where I made a presentation on the actionable strategy for important reform measures in fisheries sector, viz., National Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Bill, 2020; Aquatic Animal Disease & Health Management Bill, 2020; National Fisheries Policy, 2020; Fisheries and Aquaculture Risk Management; Agriculture status to aquaculture; Technology infusion in the fisheries sector; boosting blue economy; doubling exports, etc.

The Department has also issued Model Standing Operating Procedures vide dated 24th April, 2020 to allow inland Fisheries and aquaculture industry including cold chain, post-harvest and marketing activities during the lockdown period subject to aforesaid instructions of MHA.

Secretary (DARPG) took a review meeting on 22nd April, 2020 through Video Conferencing regarding the "Disposal of COVID-19 related Public Grievances" received during the period 30-03-2020 to 18-04-2020 received through the CPGRAMS portal. The meeting was attended by Director of this Department, and the chair was appraised of the prompt disposals of the COVID-19 related public grievances received in this department.

Secretary (Co-ordination), Cabinet Secretariat chaired a meeting over video conferencing on 29th April, 2020 regarding implementation of DBT. The meeting was attended by Joint

Commissioner (Fy) along with concerned programme officer and reported the progress regarding on boarding of DBT applicable schemes of Department of Fisheries.

The Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries) was nominated for attending meeting clusters of the Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR) on Fisheries Subsidies in WTO in Geneva, Switzerland scheduled for 30thMarch-3rdApril, 2020 and 20-24thApril, 2020. These meetings were called off due to prevailing COVID-19 situation. However, as per the arrangements suggested by the Chair, NGR, comments/questions of WTO Members on India' revised S&DT proposal (TN/RL/GEN/200/Rev.2 dated 05th March, 2020) were received in writing through the secretariat and the written replies/responses from the Indian sides were submitted by PMI after vetting by Department of Fisheries to the Secretariat by the deadline of 24th April, 2020.

The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) is currently being implemented in 16 States and 3 Union Territories for detecting and reporting of endemic pathogens since February, 2013 to comply with international obligations and to support our marine exports. The said programme is being coordinated by National Bureau of Fish Genetics Resources (NBFGR- ICAR) funded by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The extension of the first phase of NSPAAD has been granted beyond 31stMarch, 2020 until 30thJune, 2020. The proposal for the second phase has been submitted by ICAR, which is under consideration of Department of Fisheries.

Union Secretary Fisheries also reviewed the proposed World Bank Project in Fisheries Sector, so as to align with the COVID-19 response financing package of the World Bank. The World Bank project- "Blue Revolution: Harnessing the Potential of Aquatic Resources" was approved by the Department of Economic Affairs at a total cost of Rs. 12,861.33 Crores with external Assistance from World Bank is Rs. 3,250 Crores. (Approx USD 500 Million) in 2019. It is tentatively proposed to avail 200 million USD through the World Bank funding under the Development Policy Financing (DPF) option, for the reforms proposed under the fisheries sector and explore the possibility of availing support towards COVID-19 reconstruction measures.