

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
Demand No. 7
POLICY NOTE 2009-10

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fisheries sector has been recognised as an important income and employment generator as it stimulates the growth of a number of subsidiary industries besides serving as a source of animal protein to meet the food security for future generation. Tamilnadu is one of the important coastal States in the East coast, having a coastline of 1076 kms. There are 13 Coastal Districts and 591 fishing villages with a total marine Fishers population of about 8.38 lakhs, of which 2.81 lakh fishermen are actively engaged in fishing. The marine fishery resources comprise of 1.9 lakh sq. km of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (9.4% of India's EEZ) and a continental shelf of about 41,412 sq km. Tamil Nadu is one of the leading producers of both marine and inland fish and fishery products. At present, about 6200 mechanised fishing crafts and 50,360 traditional crafts (18,727 vallams and 31,633 catamarans) are engaged in marine fishing. The annual marine fish catch in Tamil Nadu is estimated at 3.93 lakh tonnes. The State has the potential to emerge as a major exporter of marine products. During 2007-08, about 72,644 M.T. of marine products valued at Rs.1,81,314 lakhs was exported from Tamil Nadu.

The inland fisheries sector has about 3.71 lakh ha of water spread area comprising of reservoirs, major irrigation and long seasonal tanks, short seasonal tanks and ponds, estuaries, backwaters, etc., which are amenable for both capture and culture fisheries. The Inland fishers population is about 2.16 lakhs. The inland fish catch is estimated at 1.65

lakhs tonnes. About 5,000 ha are being utilised for fresh water aquaculture under the programme of the Fish Farmers' Development Agency. There are 8 fish seed production centres and 29 fish seed rearing centres located in various places with a capacity to produce 2750 lakhs of early fry annually. The total brackish water area available for aquaculture production is 56,000 ha. Apart from that, shrimp culture is being undertaken in 6,066 ha.

There are 1,366 primary fishermen cooperative societies which include 399 inland fishermen / fisherwomen cooperatives. Tamil Nadu ranks sixth in fish production in the country. The vast fishery resources of both marine and inland waters have not yet been fully exploited. The fishery resources in the inshore areas have been over exploited, whereas the offshore resources and deep sea resources are yet to be tapped to the optimum level.

The prime responsibility of the Department is to judiciously balance, enhance fish production with sustained conservation of resources as well as to improve the socio-economic standards of the fishermen.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP

The Commissioner of Fisheries is the Head of the Department and also the Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited, an undertaking of the Tamil Nadu Government. He is the Functional Registrar of all fishermen cooperative societies including Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Cooperative Federation.

The State is divided into 6 regions headed by 3 Joint Directors of Fisheries and 3 Deputy Directors of Fisheries who monitor and supervise the activities of Assistant

Directors of Fisheries and implement various developmental Schemes including fishermen welfare Schemes.

During 2008-09, the following vacancies have been filled up.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Number of posts filled up
1	Deputy Director of Fisheries	2
2	Assistant Director of Fisheries	12
3	Personal Assistant	4
4	Inspector of Fisheries	30
5	Research Assistant	12
6	Superintendent	19
7	Assistant	16
8	Fishery overseer Grade-1	2
9	Compassionate-ground Appointment (all categories)	4
Total		101

The Department initiated steps to fill up 111 vacancies of the following categories through direct recruitment by TNPSC during the year 2009 – 10.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Number of posts to be filled up
1	Sub Inspector of Fisheries	30
2	Junior Assistant	24
3	Typist	46
4	Steno-typist	11
Total		111

3. FOCUS ON FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT DURING XI FIVE YEAR PLAN

The State Planning Commission has approved a total outlay of Rs. 55770 lakhs to Fisheries Sector for the XI Plan period towards the implementation of both ongoing and new Schemes. The following thrust areas have been identified for implementation of the Schemes in the XI Five Year Plan period – 2007-08 to 2011-12.

- Develop fishery resources and potential including alternate livelihood programme to improve the economic well being of the fishers.
- Modernize and equip all the Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres in accordance with the guidelines of Export Inspection Council, Government of India, to satisfy Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) norms to avail opportunities under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime.
- Empower fish producers to compete both in domestic and international markets.
- Facilitate organized market network and modernize domestic fish markets including cold chain facility.
- Conservation of fishery resources, enhancement of resources, reduce over-capitalized fishing efforts.

- Modify policies to achieve conservation and diversification efforts.
- Encourage alternate livelihood support programmes through skill upgradation and professional training to fishers.
- Identify vulnerable areas and prepare a comprehensive plan for disaster preparedness and mitigation.
- Develop aquarium and Oceanarium for the promotion of fisheries tourism.

4. OBJECTIVES OF FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

- To encourage fishers to exploit the under-utilized fishery resources and to reduce fishing pressure in the inshore areas.
- To augment aquatic resource production in the inshore areas by conservation measures, stock enhancement, establishing artificial reefs etc.
- To promote sustainable, eco-friendly aquaculture practices.
- To strengthen the infrastructure facilities for fish landing and marketing as per Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and European Union (EU) norms.
- To uplift the socio-economic status of the fishers through welfare measures and also by generating employment opportunities.

- To modify the present fisheries legislation so as to suit the present need of the fishers and conservation.
- Impetus to ornamental fish culture and deep sea fishing including Tuna.

4.1 STRATEGIES TO BE ADOPTED TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES

- By motorisation of traditional crafts and by giving subsidy for the purchase of Outboard motors (OBM)/ Inboard Engine (IBE) for marine fishermen.
- The Tamil Nadu Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1983 needs to be amended taking into consideration the prevailing scenario of marine fisheries and need for introduction of diversified fishing methods and conservation and stock enhancement of marine fishery resources after conducting series of consultation meetings with stake holders and experts.
- Skill up-gradation training to fishers of 12 coastal districts except Chennai, on various mariculture activities such as sea weed, cage culture of fin fish etc., under Swarna Jayanthi Grama Swarozgar Yojana. (SGSY).
- Upgrading the existing Fishing Harbours / Fish Landing Centres, creation of new Fishing Harbours / Fish Landing Centres, upgrading the existing fish seed farms and enhancing the seed transport facilities.

- Free housing Scheme, providing various relief assistance and training programmes for marine and inland fishermen.
- Training and assisting fishermen for conversion of their fishing vessel for Tuna Fishing.
- Promoting private participation to bridge the fish seed requirement gap in Tamil Nadu for establishing fish seed production and rearing centres by extending financial assistance to farmers. For enhancing the unit fish production, the farmers of Tamil Nadu will be exposed to the latest technologies being adopted in other States by undertaking study tour to other states for progressive farmers and Departmental functionaries.

5. MARINE FISHERIES

5.1 FISHERMEN WELFARE SCHEMES

5.1.1 (a) NATIONAL SAVINGS –CUM-RELIEF SCHEME FOR MARINE FISHERMEN

The Government is implementing the centrally sponsored / shared Scheme of National Savings-cum-Relief for the fishermen of Tamil Nadu every year.

Under this Scheme, the fisherman contributes Rs.75/- per month as his share for 8 months in a year. The contribution is equally matched by the Central and State Governments i.e. Rs.300/- each. A sum of Rs.1200/- including the fisherman contribution is disbursed to the beneficiaries during the four lean months.

For the year 2008-09, the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.2089.00 lakhs as relief amount for 1, 74,088 fishermen beneficiaries in 13 coastal districts.

For remaining period of the XI Five year Plan, the Government of India have issued revised administrative approval to implement this Scheme. As per the revised administrative approval, the disbursement has been revised to 3 months of the lean period. The beneficiary has to contribute Rs.600/- @ Rs. 70/- per month for the first eight months and Rs. 40/- for the ninth month. An amount of Rs. 1200/- is provided by the Central and State Government on 50 : 50 basis. The total amount of Rs.1800/- will be distributed during the lean period of three months. This revised scheme will be implemented during 2009-10 as well.

(b) SAVINGS-CUM-RELIEF SCHEME FOR MARINE FISHERWOMEN

This Scheme is being implemented as a state Scheme since 2006-07. Under the Scheme, a sum of Rs.75/- per month shall be contributed by the Fisherwomen beneficiary for a period of 8 months. Matching share of Rs.600/- is provided by the State Government. Thus, a sum of Rs.1200/- is distributed to the beneficiary during the four lean months. For the year 2008-09, the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.1432.00 lakhs for 13 coastal districts for disbursement of relief amount to 1,19,343 fisherwomen beneficiaries. This Scheme will be continued during 2009-10.

5.1.2 GRANT OF RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO MARINE FISHERMEN FAMILIES DURING FISHING BAN PERIOD

To conserve the fishery resources, during the fish breeding season, the Government have imposed fishing ban every year from 2001 onwards for a period for 45 days i.e from April 15 to May 29 in the East Coast region and June 15 to July 29 in the West Coast. From the inception of the prohibition of fishing by the mechanised fishing crafts in territorial waters of Tamil Nadu, no relief assistance (cash-dole) was given to the crew / labourers of the fishing craft. The fishermen who are engaged as crew / labourers in the fishing boat have no source of income by means of any other alternative employment and those crew / labourers put into hardship in maintaining their families.

To alleviate the sufferings of the poor crew / labourers who are actually involved in fishing activities, the Government of Tamil Nadu have announced relief assistance of Rs.500/- per family during the ban period to the families of crew / labourers. During 2008-09, a sum of Rs. 719.97 lakhs was disbursed to 1,43,994 fishermen families. The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 728.00 lakhs for implementing this Scheme during 2009-10 as well.

5.1.3 FISHERMEN FREE HOUSING SCHEME

The Government sanction 2000 houses every year for the Marine and Inland sector fishermen who are below poverty line under Fishermen Free Housing Scheme, subject to the following conditions:

- Fishermen should be members of the Fishermen Co-operative Society
- Fishermen should live in huts or Kutcha houses
- Fishermen should own 3 cents of Patta land

Apart from the above Scheme, the Government of India sanction houses, community halls and tube wells under the Development of Model Fishermen Village Scheme. The Scheme is shared between the State and Centre on 50:50 basis.

The Scheme will be continued during the year 2009-10 as well.

5.1.4 GROUP ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME FOR FISHERS

Under this Scheme, the State and Central Government will pay the total Insurance premium of Rs.14/- (at Rs.7/- each) and no premium is collected from the fishermen. In case of death / permanent disablement, the fishers will be given Rs.50000/- and Rs.25000/- for partial disablement, respectively.

During 2008-09, a sum of Rs.38.79 lakhs (as State share) has been paid to FISHCOFED, New Delhi towards insurance coverage for 5,54,145 active marine, inland fishermen and fisherwomen for the

period 10.12.2008 to 9.12.2009. This Scheme will be continued during 2009-10 as well.

The Government of India have enhanced the sum insured from Rs.50000/- to Rs. 1.00 lakh for the death and from Rs. 25000/- to Rs. 50000/- for partially disabled. In view of the enhanced coverage, the premium amount has been also increased to Rs.30 (at Rs. 15 /-each by State and Centre) The Government will pay the entire premium amount for the enhanced insurance coverage.

5.1.5 MOTORISATION OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

The Government is providing a subsidy of Rs.20, 000 towards the purchase of outboard motors to be fitted in the traditional crafts of fishermen. So far, the department has provided 18,470 Outboard Motors (OBM) / Inboard Engines (IBE) to the Fishermen. The Scheme is shared between State and Centre as 50 :50 basis.

For the remaining period of XI Five year Plan, the Government of India have issued revised administrative approval to implement the Scheme. As per the revised administrative approval, the fishermen will be provided with 50% subsidy of the unit cost with a ceiling limit of Rs. 30,000 per Outboard Motor (OBM) / Inboard Engine (IBE), which will be shared equally between Centre and State and this Scheme will be continued during 2009-10 as well.

5.1.6 REIMBURSEMENT OF CENTRAL EXCISE DUTY ON HIGH SPEED DIESEL

The increasing operational cost of mechanised fishing vessel coupled with reduced fish catch per unit has led to poor income to the fishermen. To alleviate the sufferings of the mechanized fishing boat operators and to reduce the operational cost, the Government reimburses the excise duty by way of subsidy towards the purchase of HSD oil. During 2008-09, Government of India have sanctioned Rs.300.00 lakhs as subsidy (100% assistance) and 1,761 beneficiaries had been benefited.

For the remaining period of XI Five year Plan, the Government of India have issued revised administrative approval to implement the Scheme. As per the revised administrative approval, rebate will be equivalent to 50% of Sales Tax relief granted by States to HSD oil for fishing purpose with central subsidy limited to Rs. 3.00/ litre of HSD oil with a ceiling of 500 litres per boat, per month during active fishing months. The subsidy will be provided to the mechanised vessels with overall length lesser than 20 meter and registered prior to X Five year Plan period. This Scheme will be continued during 2009-10 as well.

5.1.7 SALES TAX EXEMPTION ON SALE OF HIGH SPEED DIESEL TO FISHERMEN

The Government have exempted 100% sales tax towards purchase of High Speed Diesel Oil for mechanised boats and motorised country crafts

registered prior to Xth five year plan. The mechanised boat can avail Sales tax free diesel subject to a maximum of 15,000 litres per boat per year during active fishing months and motorised country craft to the maximum of 3,000 litres per craft per year.

During the year 2008-09, sales tax free High Speed Diesel oil at a quantity of 74,662 KL for mechanized boats and 27,372 KL for country crafts had been supplied. This Scheme will be continued during 2009-10 as well.

5.1.8 CASH AWARDS TO Xth, AND +2 STUDENTS OF FISHERMEN COMMUNITY

To encourage students of fishermen community to pursue education, Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned cash awards of Rs.4.12 lakhs to fishermen boys and girls who have secured top ranks in X and +2 Standard Examinations at District and State level. This Scheme will be continued during the year 2009-10 as well.

5.2 FISHERMEN RELIEF SCHEME

5.2.1 DAILY RELIEF TO MARINE FISHERMEN APPREHENDED IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The Government support the family of genuine fishermen who are apprehended by the neighbouring countries, while fishing by extending a daily relief amount of Rs.50/- to the family till he returns home. The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.5.00 lakhs each to the 8 District Collectors of Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and

Kanniyakumari for providing immediate relief. The Scheme will be continued for the year 2009-10 as well.

5.2.2 RELIEF TO THE FAMILIES OF MISSING FISHERMEN

The Government extend relief assistance of Rs.50/- per day or Rs.1500/- per month to the families of the fishermen missing while fishing in the sea, till he returns subject to the following conditions.

- i) The affected fisherman should be an actual fisherman and should be a member of the Fishermen Co-operative Society.
- (ii) An application with FIR copy countersigned by local Sub-Inspector / Inspector of Police should be submitted to Assistant Director of Fisheries concerned.
- (iii) An Affidavit from the local village Panchayat regarding
 - (a) Non-Availability of the missing fisherman in that village for 30 days from the date of voyage.
 - (b) The fisherman had not been involved in any illegal activity
 - (c) An affidavit will be obtained from the families of these fishermen that the amount paid to them as daily relief shall be returned to the Government in case, the fishermen are later found engaged in any illegal activity or become eligible for ex-gratia amount. The Government have sanctioned a

total sum of Rs.12.00 lakhs and distributed to the coastal District Collectors. During the year 2008-09, a sum of Rs. 21,850/- has been disbursed by the District collector, Thanjavur and Rs.1,49,550/- by the District Collector, Kanniyakumari.

5.2.3 RELIEF TO THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED FISHERMEN SUBJECTED TO ATTACK BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

The fishermen of Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts inadvertently cross the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) due to engine failure and natural vagaries of the sea and drift into Sri Lankan waters. Such fishermen are apprehended and sometimes shot at by Sri Lankan Navy.

To alleviate the sufferings of deceased family, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has enhanced the Ex-gratia payment from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.3.00 lakhs to the deceased fishermen family. In the case of the deceased fisherman who is the breadwinner of the family, the Ex-gratia has been enhanced from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.5.00 lakhs from the Chief Minister Public Relief Fund. From the current year onwards, an Ex-gratia amount of Rs.50000/- for major injuries and Rs.20000/- for minor injuries will be given.

5.2.4 SETTING UP OF DISTRESS MANAGEMENT CELL IN HEAD OFFICE

The Department of Fisheries has already set up Distress Management Cell in the Head Office at a cost of Rs.6.00 lakhs to take swift follow-up action at the time of missing / apprehension and shooting incidents. The Distress Management Cell also disseminates weather forecast to the fishers through the coastal District Assistant Directors.

5.3. TSUNAMI REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

Tsunami, which occurred during the year 2004 had caused heavy damages to the lives and properties of the people in the 13 Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is one of the worst affected States by Tsunami and the fishermen community had to be rehabilitated by way of assistance from Government and other Agencies.

Hence, the Government gave a major thrust to Tsunami relief, taken a comprehensive view on the relief measures and have sanctioned various packages to provide maximum relief assistance to the fishermen who suffered damages to their houses, fishing crafts and gears. The Government have rejuvenated the life of fishermen by extending relief assistance to a tune of Rs.15216.00 lakhs for carrying out repairs / replacement of damaged fishing implements.

5.3.1 ADDITIONAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO TSUNAMI AFFECTED FISHERMEN

In accordance with the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Government have sanctioned Rs.11036.00 lakhs under Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package towards distribution of additional relief materials i.e., Heavy Duty Bi-cycles, Life jackets, Re-chargeable lanterns, fishing nets and insulated ice boxes to 42,000 fishermen affected by Tsunami.

5.3.2 SEAMLESS COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Originally, this proposal has been proposed to be taken up under World Bank aided ETRP Scheme. Now, this proposal is being taken up under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme with Central Government assistance of Rs.5760.00 lakhs for installation of Seamless Communication Network in 13 coastal districts. ELCOT has been fixed as the agency. The project has to be implemented in 2 phases. Government have accorded administrative sanction for a sum of Rs.773.00 lakhs for establishing seamless network communication as a pilot project in Ramanathapuram district through ELCOT, Chennai.

5.3.3 WORLD BANK ASSISTED EMERGENCY TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (ETRP)

An amount of Rs.8060.00 lakhs has been allotted under World Bank assisted ETRP. Out of which, the relief assistance to Shrimp Aqua Farm damaged due to Tsunami has already been completed. Seamless Communication net work Scheme, which was originally proposed under ETRP, will be taken-up under Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction programme. The other works are as follows:

a) Reconstruction and modernisation of four fishing Harbours

Consultancy service has been fixed for carrying out the studies for reconstruction and modernisation of four Fishing Harbours (i.e) Mallipattinam, Nagapattinam, Pazhayar and Chinnamuttom. The study report on techno-economic feasibility report for four sites has been received and is under examination. The execution of work will be taken up after the studies. The total amount allocated under this project is Rs.3548.00 lakhs. M/s. SMEC, the consultancy agency appointed for this project, has given estimated total project cost of Rs.11300.00 lakhs.

b) Permanent Opening of four Bar-mouths

Consultancy service for permanent opening of four bar mouths at Uppanar, Vellar, Pulicat and Thamaraprani has been fixed. DPR has been

received. Draft bid documents were sent to World Bank for approval. On receipt of approval from World Bank, tenders will be invited in consultation with World Bank. The total cost of the project is Rs.1960.00 lakhs. M/s. WAPCOS, the consultancy agency appointed for this project, has submitted project proposal at an estimated cost of Rs.5800.00 lakhs.

c) Construction of two New Fish Landing Centres

The total amount allocated for the construction of two new fish landing centres at Nagoor and Annankoil was Rs. 460.00 lakhs. But the consultancy service provider prepared detailed project for construction of fish landing centres at a cost of Rs.1060.00 lakhs and fish landing centre at Annankoil at a cost of Rs. 1300.00 lakhs.

(i) Nagoor

Regarding construction of new fish landing centre at Nagoor, studies were carried out by the consultancy agency and Detailed Project Report (DPR), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) report were received. World Bank has approved bid documents and tender notice. Tenders will be floated and construction will be commenced in consultation with World Bank.

(ii) Annankoil

The consultancy service has been fixed for carrying out studies for construction of new fish landing centre at Annankoil and Draft DPR has been received and the tenders will be invited in consultation with World Bank after obtaining approval to bid documents and revision of cost.

5.3.4 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ASSISTED TSUNAMI EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROJECT (TEAP)

a) Development of comprehensive design for Fishing Harbour at Cuddalore

Asian Development Bank has accorded approval for carrying out studies to develop fishing harbour at Cuddalore. Studies were completed and draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by engaging a consultancy service provider.

b) Dredging works in the basin of Fishing Harbours / Fish Landing Centres

To facilitate easy navigation to sea for carrying out fishing operations, it is proposed to carry out dredging works in the Fishing Harbours (Pazhayar, Chinnamuttom) / Fish Landing Centres (Mudasolodai, Sethubavachatram, Kottaipattinam, Jagadapattinam and Punnakayal). Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) / Environmental Management Plan (EMP) studies were carried out through Anna University, Chennai. Environmental

clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) has been received from National Coastal Zone Management Authority. Draft bid document has been sent to Asian Development Bank (ADB) for approval. On receipt of approval, dredging work will be carried out in consultation with ADB.

5.3.5 CONSTRUCTION OF 10 FISH LANDING CENTRES UNDER TSUNAMI REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

Construction of ten new Fish Landing Centres in the following places at a total cost of Rs.4997.00 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government and a sum of Rs.2000.00 lakhs has been released being 1st instalment of amount towards commencement of civil works.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Thiruvallur District | - | 1. Annamalaicheri
2. Ennore
Mugathuvarakuppam |
| Kancheepuram District | - | 3. Periyamangodu
4. Kadalore
Periakuppam |
| Villupuram District | - | 5. Ekkiyarkuppam |
| Pudukottai District | - | 6. R. Pudupattinam |
| Ramanathapuram District | - | 7. Keelakarai |
| Thoothukudi District | - | 8. Threspuram |
| | - | 9. Periyathalai |
| Tirunelveli District | - | 10. Uvari |

Tenders have been called for all the above Fishing Landing Centres except for Keelakarai. Tenders are under process and works will be

commenced as soon as the tenders are finalized. For Keelakarai, tenders will be invited.

5.3.6 MODERNIZATION OF CHENNAI FISHING HARBOUR

Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1956.90 lakhs to Chennai Port Trust towards modernizing the Chennai Fishing Harbour. Under this Scheme, the work viz., rehabilitation of trawler wharf, extension of break water, construction of additional trawler wharf and finger jetties are to be carried out. Work on construction of eastern breakwater is in progress.

5.4 INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

5.4.1 CONSTRUCTION OF FISHING HARBOURS IN TAMILNADU UNDER CENTRE / STATE SHARED SCHEME

a) Fishing Harbour at Colachel

Government of India have accorded administrative approval for the construction of Fishing Harbour at Colachel in Kanniyakumari District at an estimated cost of Rs.2710.00 lakhs.

The construction of Eastern and Western breakwaters and its approaches for Colachel fishing harbour are in progress. The construction of wharf, dredging and other infrastructures will be taken up in the second phase.

b) Fishing Harbour at Thengapattinam

Government of India have accorded administrative approval for the construction of Fishing Harbour at Thengapattinam in Kanniyakumari District at an estimated cost of Rs.4000.00 lakhs and Rs.400.00 lakhs has been released towards 1st instalment as Central and State share for implementing the project. The land for the project has been taken possession by the Department. Work is in progress.

c) Fishing Harbour at Poompuhar

For the proposed construction of Fishing harbour at Poompuhar in Nagapattinam District, model study was completed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). Archaeological Marine Survey to get clearance for the project has been also completed and reports that the proposed site is free from any Archaeological structure / artefact. An estimate for Rs.5945.00 lakhs has been prepared and sent to Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bangalore to revise the Techno- Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR)

5.4.2 CONSTRUCTION OF FISHING HARBOUR UNDER “BOOT’ (BUILD, OWN, OPERATE & TRANSFER) SYSTEM.

The Government have accorded permission for the construction of Fishing Harbours at Muttom and Rajakkamangalamthurai in Kanniyakumari District under “BOOT” System. In respect of Muttom Fishing Harbour, the land was handed over to the

promoter. Environmental clearance was obtained from Government of India and the construction of break water is in progress.

For Rajakkamangalamthurai Fishing Harbour in Kanniyakumari district, model study, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan preparation are in progress.

5.4.3 DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN THE FISHING HARBOURS UNDER 'ASIDE' (ASSISTANCE TO STATE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR EXPORT) ASSISTANCE

Under 'ASIDE' assistance, funds for Rs. 952.41 lakhs were released by TIDCO for the upgradation of existing Fishing Harbours at Chennai and Thoothukudi to meet the international quality for marine products export. All the works have been completed at Chennai and Thoothukudi.

Further, cold chain facilities have been established at Thoothukudi, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari at an estimated cost of Rs.61.90 lakhs. Kiosks in four places at a total cost of Rs.24.00 lakhs are to be established.

5.5 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES

5.5.1 STOCK ENHANCEMENT OF INSHORE FISHERY RESOURCES BY SEA RANCHING PROGRAMME

In recent years, the fishery wealth in the inshore water is being over exploited due to increasing dependence on the resources. Stock enhancement and fishing diversification are the options to reduce fishing pressure in the inshore waters. Considering this, the Government have already initiated implementing sea ranching programme and ranched 48 million *Penaeus monodon* Shrimp seeds under Fisheries Development Mission programme in selected places of five coastal districts i.e Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur Pudukottai and Thoothukudi. In 2008-09, the Scheme was implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.20.00 lakhs.

5.5.2 INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Setting up of artificial reef in the inshore waters is one of the management options for stock enhancement / conservation of fishery resources. The Government have already installed 14 Artificial Reefs. The work has been entrusted to Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to install another 4 Artificial Reefs at Thanjavur, Kanniyakumari, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts.

6. MARICULTURE

Tamil Nadu with its long coast line has immense potential for development of various Mariculture activities which are yet to be tapped. The development of mariculture activities will help to reduce the fishing pressure in the inshore water and also act as a diversified activity.

6.1 SEAWEED CULTURE

Seaweed cultivation is being undertaken in selected areas involving Self Help Groups, and proved as an ideal alternate employment opportunity for diversification of fishing. Under the SGSY Special Project, meant for alternate livelihood for Tsunami affected fishers in Tamil Nadu, it is envisaged to impart skill upgradation training for 6000 fishers on seaweed culture within a span of three years. Out of which, 3000 fishers will be provided financial assistance to start seaweed cultivation as their economic activity. So far, 4838 fishers has been trained in seaweed cultivation at an estimated cost of Rs.32.24 lakhs and financial assistance to the tune of Rs.50.46 lakhs has been provided as backended subsidy for undertaking economic activity.

7. INLAND FISHERIES

Tamil Nadu is having vast potential for the development of Inland Fisheries. The estimated 3.7 lakhs ha. inland Fishery resources comprises reservoirs, major irrigation and long seasonal tanks, minor irrigation and short seasonal tanks and ponds, rivers, backwaters and swamps. Hitherto, only 30 to

40 % of resources have been utilised for fish culture. Tamil Nadu mainly depends on the seasonal rains and the water retention period of the water bodies is very short. To maximise fish production, the Government initiated innovative approaches such as stocking of advance fingerlings of fast growing fishes in the short seasonal water bodies, introduction of cage culture in reservoirs to increase unit productivity, introduce integration of fish culture with scampi to generate maximum income etc. The Department of Fisheries is taking suitable measures to bring all the water bodies under fish culture.

7.1 RESERVOIRS

There are about 61 reservoirs in Tamil Nadu, consisting of major, medium and small type reservoirs. Among these, 53 reservoirs are under the control of Fisheries Department and the fishery resources of these reservoirs are being exploited by the following methods:

- Licensing System
- Share fishing involving nearby Inland Fishermen Co-operative Society members
- Leasing

7.2 FISH SEED PRODUCTION

There are 8 Fish Seed Producing centres and 29 fish seed rearing centres in the Department and Tamilnadu Fisheries Development Corporation (TNFDC) with the potential to produce 85 million fingerlings. Seed production from Private sectors contributes 107 million fingerlings. Altogether, the

State has the capability of producing 192 million fish seeds against the annual requirement of 232 million. Hence, there is a shortfall of 40 million seeds which is met out from the neighbouring States. During 2008-09, 1531 lakhs of early fry have been produced from the 8 seed production centres.

To attain self sufficiency in fish seed production and to bring more water bodies under fish culture through various Schemes such as Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AGAMT), National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP-RKVY), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies restoration and Management (IAMWARM), Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) etc., the Tamil Nadu Government have planned to strengthen the existing seed production centres in the Department and also to encourage private farmers to involve in this activity by implementing several Schemes.

7.3. FISH SEED REARING CENTRES

The state has 29 Fish Seed Rearing centres in an extent of 18 ha. Out of which, only 10 ha. of rearing area is under operation at present. To enhance the seed production, it is proposed to renovate the nurseries in a phased manner. During 2008 –2009, a nursery area of 4900 m² has been renovated aiming at a production of 20 lakhs fingerlings. During 2008-09, 193.70 lakhs of fingerlings were produced.

7.4 DEVELOPMENT OF POST HARVEST INFRASTRUCTURE

Fish is a perishable commodity which needs quick transportation and hygienic post harvest handling to ensure quality for the consumers and fair price for the producers. In order to strengthen the inland fish marketing sector, the Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.26.25 lakhs under centrally sponsored Scheme. During the year 2008-09, grant is extended to establish two modern fish retail outlets by TNFDC and TAFCOFED at a total cost of Rs.20.00 lakhs. Rs. 2.50 lakhs as 50% subsidy assistance is extended to the Mettur Inland Fishermen Co-operative Marketing Society for the purchase of insulated mini-truck and Rs. 3.75 lakhs towards 25% subsidy assistance of Rs. 7500/- per unit to 50 fish vendors for the purchase of moped with insulated ice box. The Scheme will be continued during 2009 – 10 as well.

7.5 FISH FARMERS DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

In Tamil Nadu, 12 Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDA) are functioning to popularise scientific Inland fish culture activities. Fish Farmers' Development Agency is functioning under the Chairmanship of District Collector. The main activities are imparting training to farmers, providing technical guidance and encouraging farmers to venture into fish culture by extending subsidy assistance. Apart from that, the fish culture activities in water bodies provide additional income to the farmers and generate rural employment opportunities.

During the year 2008-09, subsidy assistance have been extended to 67 farmers to the tune of Rs. 23.85 lakhs. The Scheme will be continued during 2009-10 as well.

7.6. BRACKISHWATER AQUACULTURE

There are 5 Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (BFDA) in the State at Thoothukudi, Nagapattinam, Thiruvallur, Ramanathapuram and Cuddalore Districts functioning under the Chairmanship of respective District Collectors.

Out of 56,000 ha brackish water area and 14,880 ha. of coastal lands, shrimp Farming is done in an area of 6006 ha. The mandatory registration of shrimp aqua-farms as per the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 has made the shrimp farmers to register their aqua-farms with Coastal Aquaculture Authority.

The Government extends subsidy assistance to small farmers with land holding of less than 2.00 ha. and whose farm is registered with Coastal Aquaculture Authority. The Coastal Aquaculture Authority has approved registration of 1141 farms. During 2008-09, an amount of Rs.86.05 lakhs has been released as subsidy to 247 shrimp farmers. The Scheme will be implemented during 2009-10 as well.

7.7. DEVELOPMENT OF COLD WATER FISHERIES

The upland water streams in the Nilgiris offer immense potential for developing sport fishery. The streams are stocked with Trout fish by the Department and licences are issued for the anglers. As part of development of sport fishery, the stock enhancement of game fishes in the streams are being done regularly by producing Trout fingerlings at Avalanche trout farm. 2.2 lakhs of Trout fingerlings have been reared and 1620 licences have been issued during the year 2008-09.

7.8 WESTERN GHATS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Western Ghats Development Programme is being implemented with the assistance of Government of India to uplift the socio-economic status of the people living in the Western Ghats region. During 2008-09, the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.22.50 lakh for undertaking repair and renovation of fish farm at Vaigai Dam, Theni District. The Scheme will be continued during 2009 – 2010 as well.

8. SPECIAL PROJECTS

8.1 SWARNA JAYANTHI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA (SGSY) - SPECIAL PROJECTS

The SGSY special projects funded by Department of Rural Development are being implemented in 12 coastal districts at a cost of Rs.2816.00 lakhs in two phases. The major

components of the projects include skill upgradation training to fishers on different mariculture practices such as lobster fattening, Crab fattening, Seaweed culture, Ornamental fish culture, Engine repair, net mending, fish processing and value addition to take up as their economic activity and infrastructure development to support the project. This project aims to benefit about 42,000 fishers by upgrading their skills and improving their economic status. Apart from this, there will be a significant increase in aquaculture production, self employment, alternate livelihood support for fishers' families, and subsequent export earnings.

35 Self Help Groups have been involved in seaweed culture as an economic activity for self employment support. Under infrastructure development, a Multi Species Marine Fin fish hatchery is being established through society named as "Centre for Aquaculture Research and Development" (CARD) and 12 solar dryers will be set up one in each of the coastal districts. Those trained in fish processing and value addition will be provided with marketing kit for hygienic handling and fish marketing at an estimated total cost of Rs.175.00 lakhs.

8.2 TAMIL NADU IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE MODERNISATION AND WATER BODIES RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT (TN IAMWARM) PROJECT

The World Bank funded IAMWARM Project is envisioned to improve the productivity and efficiency of water by putting into optimum use and to help the

farmers to get a sustainable additional income. Fisheries Department is one among the line departments which implements the Scheme in 63 sub-basins. Under this Scheme, the following activities are being undertaken.

- Aquaculture in Farm Ponds
- Aquaculture in Irrigation tanks
- Fish seed rearing in cages
- Construction of New Fish Seed Banks and Improvement to Government Fish Seed Farms
- Ornamental Fish Culture
- Supply of fishing implements
- Setting up of Fish Kiosk for fish marketing
- Information Education Communication (IEC) / Capacity Building (CB)

During 2008-09, a sum of Rs.441.66 lakhs was allocated for implementing the Scheme in new 16 sub-basins and the spill over works of 2007-08 were also taken up for implementation. During 2009-10, the Fisheries Department has proposed to take up the fisheries activities in 38 sub-basins for which Detailed Project Report(DPR) is under preparation

8.3. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NADP)

This is a centrally assisted scheme launched by Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries interalia constitutes one of the focus areas under this Scheme. This Scheme provides flexibility and autonomy to the State Government to prepare projects as part of the District Agriculture plan so as

to increase public investment in agriculture allied sectors and enhance production and productivity.

During 2009-10, the following Fisheries Schemes are being implemented at a total cost Rs.763.50 lakhs.

a) *Fish culture in Check Dams*

The water bodies in forest areas hitherto remained either unutilized or under-utilized for fish culture. To utilize check dams and percolation ponds in forest area for fish culture by stocking fish fingerlings, the Fisheries Department in coordination with the Forest Department conducted awareness cum training programmes to 300 Village Forest Council members in fish culture. About 100 ha. of suitable water bodies were stocked with fingerlings in Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Salem, Vellore and Coimbatore Districts. The Scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs.2.50 lakhs.

b) *River Ranching as a measure of Conservation of Endangered / Endemic Species as well as to Enhance Fish Production*

The Inland water resource of Tamil Nadu has rich fish bio- diversity. In recent years, some of the native fish stock has been dwindling due to various natural and anthropogenic activities. To replenish the stock of native fish variety, the Government initiated action to breed those endemic varieties in the fish farm at Mettur Dam and ranch in the riverine and other natural system. The species proposed to be ranched under this Scheme are *Cirrhinus cirrhosa*,

Labeo fimbriatus, and Labeo calbasu. The Scheme is being implemented at a cost of Rs. 35.00 lakhs .

c) *Repair and Renovation of Existing Fish Seed Farms*

About three hectares of nursery and rearing areas in the existing departmental fish seed farms at Bhavanisagar, Manimuthar, Krishnagiri and Mettur Dam was repaired at a total cost of Rs. 323.50 lakhs for additional production of fish fingerlings.

d) *Creation of additional space for fish seed production and rearing in Neithalur, Thanjavur District*

Towards attaining self sufficiency in fish seed production, it is proposed to strengthen the existing departmental fish seed farms and creating additional nursery rearing area in a phased manner. Additional space of one hectare fish seed rearing area will be created at Neithalur departmental fish farm at a cost of Rs.192.00 lakhs.

e) *Cage Culture of Fishes in Inland Water bodies*

The Unit fish production in the open water system can be greatly increased by adopting innovative technologies such as cage culture and pen culture. The Government have initiated steps to demonstrate the viability of cage culture technology and also increasing unit fish production. The cage culture units are being deployed in Aliyar, Kelavarapalli, Gunderipallam, Odathurai and Palani Tanks at a cost of Rs.52.50 lakhs.

f) *Study Tour of Farmers*

There are array of technologies developed by Central Research Institutes like Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) which have opened avenues for undertaking commercial aquaculture. The fish farmers of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have proved the economic viability of fish farming / fish seed production by adopting the aquaculture techniques developed by these Central Institutes. Fish culture is being practised as the most successful commercial venture. In order to create awareness on scientific aqua farming by adopting latest technologies for achieving optimal fish production, it is essential that the farmers to be exposed to various aquaculture techniques being practiced in other states. During 2008-09, 300 farmers from Tamil Nadu have been taken to other states for exposure training at a cost Rs.18.00 lakhs.

g) *Upgradation of Extension centres in Tamil Nadu*

The five extension centres namely, Chennai, Parangipettai, Nagapattinam, Madurai and Colachel in Tamil Nadu were upgraded with Audio Visual Van and Extension tools at a cost of Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

h) *Setting up of Modern Fish Stalls in Major Cities in Tamil Nadu*

The Tamilnadu Fisheries Development Corporation (TNFDC) has established five modern retail fish outlets in Chennai and Madurai at a cost of Rs.30.00 lakhs.

i) Setting up of Cold Storage-cum-Chill Room

To avoid post harvest losses, chill room cum cold storage facilities are being established at four places at Pazhayar, Akkaraipettai, Rameswaram and Thoothukdi fishing harbours by TNFDC at an estimated cost of Rs.60.00 lakhs.

During the year 2009-10, the following Schemes are being implemented at a cost of Rs. 157.00 lakhs.

i) To Promote Establishment of Fish Seed Production Centres / Fish Seed Rearing Centres in Private Sector by extending 50% subsidy assistance to augment fish seed production

Though there is enough water resources in Tamil nadu, they are not put into fullest exploitation level because of the non availability of quality seeds. By creating infrastructure for fish seed production / rearing centres in private sector in parallel with the Government Fish Seed Production and Rearing Centres, a portion of the fish seed requirement can be fulfilled. At present, there are 94 Fish Seed Production Centres in private sector producing 107

million fingerlings per annum. By promoting private sectors in fish seed production and seed rearing, self sufficiency in fish seed requirement can be achieved.

Taking into consideration and to encourage private entrepreneurs to establish fish seed production / fish seed rearing centres, the Government have sanctioned to extend the following subsidy assistance to private fish farmers during 2009-10.

- 50% capital cost of 10 fish seed production centres with a production capacity of 8-10 million seeds per annum – maximum subsidy will be Rs.5.00 lakh per centre.
- 50% capital cost of 30 fish seed rearing centres with a rearing capacity of 5 lakh fingerlings per annum – maximum subsidy will be Rs.1.5 lakh per centre.

In toto, these Schemes will be implemented at a total cost of Rs.95.00 lakh during 2009-10.

ii) Capacity Building for Fish Farmers and Technical Staff of Fisheries Department

There are number of new technologies available for increasing fish production. These technologies have been developed and perfected by Central and State Research Institutes and yet to reach the grass root level. There are instances of advanced farming technologies available with the farmers in the States like Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Punjab and Haryana. To create awareness among the progressive farmers and

departmental functionaries on aqua-farming and for adopting latest technologies for achieving highest production, exposure visit will be undertaken to the Central / State / private farms in other States. During 2009-10, 100 fish farmers and 100 departmental officials will be taken for exposure visit to other states at a cost of Rs. 12.00 lakhs.

8.4 NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NFDB)

a) Reservoir Fisheries Management Scheme

To augment the exploitable fishery resources in the reservoirs, it is imperative to stock reservoirs with quality fingerlings for developing and sustaining the fishery wealth. The NFDB is extending financial assistance of Re. 1/- per fingerling under reservoir fisheries development programme. During 2008-09, for stocking 157 lakh advanced fingerlings in the water bodies by availing financial assistance of Rs.78.82 lakhs from NFDB. About 2290 inland fishermen who depend on these resources for their livelihood will be imparted training on sustainable reservoir fishery management at an estimated cost of Rs.18.93 lakhs.

b) Establishment of Fish Dressing Centre

One Fish dressing centre for production and marketing of value added fishery products will be established at Royapuram, Chennai by Tamilnadu Fisheries Development Corporation (TNFDC) Ltd., under the financial assistance of Rs. 100.00 lakhs as

Grant-in-aid from National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

c) Modernisation of Wholesale Fish Market

The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has sanctioned Rs. 75.00 lakhs towards equity share capital for establishing modern whole sale fish market at Ukkadam in Coimbatore at a total estimated cost of Rs.250.00 lakhs. The proposed modern wholesale fish market will have the facilities of Cold storage, Ice plant, Auction Hall, etc.

9. RESEARCH

There are two research stations, one at Chennai and another at Thoothukudi under the control of Fisheries Department. With regard to research activities, the Fisheries Department is coordinating with the Central Institute of Fresh water Aquaculture (CIFA), Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA), Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Fisheries College and Research Institute (FC & RI) at Thoothukudi.

During the 28th meeting of the Tamil Nadu State Fisheries Research Council held on 29.2.2008, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, it was planned to take up the following research programmes for the period 2008-10.

- Standardising the multiple breeding technology by environmental and feeding management.

- Development of Mahseer fishery in upland waters.
- Environmental Impact Assessment of shrimp farm discharges.
- Study on the prevalence of shrimp diseases.
- Study on the Tuna Fishery resources of Nagapattinam and Kanniyakumari District.
- Status / Study on the aggregation of fish in the available artificial reef.
- Study on the Lobster fishery of Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts.

10. EXTENSION AND TRAINING

Extension and Training plays a vital role in transfer of technology and propagate Government welfare Schemes to the stakeholders. Apart from that, the Department of Fisheries is having one staff training institute at Chennai and four fishermen training centres at Nagapattinam, Mandapam, Colachel and Thoothukudi. The Department is also conducting various need based target oriented training programmes with the funding support of Swarna Jayanthi Grama Swarozkar Yojna (SGSY), National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and Government of India.

10.1 TRAINING FOR FISHER YOUTH

For the operation and maintenance of the mechanised fishing boats and to operate modern fishing gear, the fisher youth are given training on modern fishing methods for 10 months in four places in the state at Nagapattinam, Mandapam,

Thoothukudi and Colachel. 50 to 60 fisher youth are trained in each centre. Besides, a Junior Mechanic course is also conducted in these training centres. Monthly stipend of Rs.400/- is paid to each selected trainee.

10.2 MARITIME EDUCATION FOR FISHER YOUTH

The Government of Tamilnadu is extending financial assistance to fisher youths to pursue maritime education after completing 10th or +2 in view of providing more employment opportunities. Under this Scheme, 100 suitable fisher youths to be trained every year and will be given financial assistance of Rs.50000/- each per year for upgradation of skills in Maritime Education and Nautical Science.

10.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING

In accordance with the announcement made in the Assembly, an Institute named "Fisheries Institute of Technology and Training" (FITT) has been established and registered as a society under "Societies Registration Act " with twin objectives of (i) improving the socio- economic condition of fishers and (ii) to provide technical assistance and training to marine fishers to take up diversified fishing activities such as sea cage culture, crab culture, sea weed farming, fish processing and value addition for providing alternate livelihood. The Institute has been established with the participation of major corporate like TATA Group to give world class training facility to fishers. To implement the training

programme, the Government have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TATA Sons on 02.09.2008 in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Land measuring 2.6 acres at Muttukadu has been transferred to establish infrastructure for FITT. Training has been given for 1400 fishermen on seaweed culture and Tuna fishing. This will be continued in 2009-10 as well.

11. NEW SCHEMES 2009 – 2010
11.1 PILOT PROJECT ON ISSUE OF SMART CARDS TO FISHERMEN

The fishermen of coastal districts often cross International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and stray into Sri Lankan waters innocently either in search of rich fishing grounds or missing due to inclement weather conditions. In such times, the fishermen / boat crossing IMBL cannot easily establish their identity, eventually apprehended and harassed by Sri Lankan navy.

Hence, there is a need to provide smart cards to fishermen and their families. Apart from that, the smart card will have a comprehensive database of each fishermen family and will be helpful for regulating fishing activity and for monitoring the violation of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation (TNMFR) Act, 1983. In view of that, during 2008-09, the Government have ordered to issue smart cards to active fishermen of 5 districts (Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Thanjavur). The active fishermen of Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Districts will be covered during 2009 – 10 at a cost of Rs.20.00 lakhs. After the

terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26.11.2008, the Government of India have given utmost importance on security issues and have decided to undertake uniform registration of fishing craft and issue of Biometric Identity cards to Active Fishermen. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are the two states selected for implementing the Scheme as a pilot project. Biometric Identity Card will be issued by availing Government of India funds.

11.2 PROVIDING COMPUTER AND ACCESSORIES TO AUTHORISED OFFICERS AND APPELLATE AUTHORITIES WHO ARE IMPLEMENTING THE TAMIL NADU MARINE FISHING REGULATION (TNMFR) ACT, 1983

The authorised officers of TNMFR Act are looking after Registration of all types of fishing crafts, Issuing and Renewal of Fishing License, Issue of Identity Cards, Collection of berthing charges from the Mechanized Fishing Boats, Issue of Daily fishing Token to Mechanized Fishing Boats, fishing coupon for Sales Tax exempted Diesel to motorised and Mechanized Fishing crafts, Implementing TNMFR Act 1983, Reimbursement of Excise duty on HSD oil for Mechanised Fishing Boats and search and rescue of missing fishermen and fishing boats in their region. Further, the Government is issuing smart cards to all the active fishermen of the coastal districts in a phased manner as an identity card and also to track their economic benefits extended by the Government. To create data base and alter the data already stored in the Smart card, and to disseminate weather forecast from MET Centre, Head office and

Commissioner of Revenue Administration (CRA) office to fishermen, computerisation is inevitable.

The Office of the Authorised Officers, Adjudicating Officers and Appellate Authority will be computerised at an estimated cost of Rs.21.00 lakhs during 2009 – 2010.

11.3 PROVISION OF GUIDE LIGHTS IN COASTAL AREAS

Fishermen living in coastal areas mainly depend on beaming lights that can be seen when they venture into sea for fishing and for safe returning to land. Due to absence of such lights, there are occasions of drifting of fishermen and losing their way to land. However, due to fluctuation in the power supply, the illumination power of the light gets affected. In order to overcome these practical difficulties, installation of hybrid light system which utilises both wind and solar energy to produce electricity is found to be more useful. The Solar module will be a standby arrangement which assures continuous power supply. Moreover, the provision of Light Emitting Diode (LED) ensures uninterrupted power supply for brighter light source to the guide-lights. Hybrid guide lights will be installed in 5 selected locations at an estimated cost of Rs.30.00 lakhs during 2009-10.

11.4 STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN FISH SEED FARMS

In Tamil Nadu, the demand for fish seed is growing due to the transformation of “natural stock based” system to “culture based fisheries”. The culturable water bodies are being stocked with quality fish seeds supplied from 8 Fish Seed Production Centres and 29 Fish Seed Rearing Centres. Most of these centres are located in remote places and have poor communication network. Moreover, due to poor communication network, the demand and supply of fish seeds could not be effectively assessed. The farmers mostly depend on sources outside the state for their seed requirement due to lack of information of availability fish seeds in the Departmental farms. Hence, during 2009-10, it has been proposed to link Departmental fish farms with the controlling officers with the Centralized Monitoring Cell at Head Office by computerised networking system at an estimated cost of Rs.13.97 lakhs.

11.5 SUBSIDY ASSISTANCE TO INLAND FISHERMEN FOR PURCHASE OF NETS

There are 61 reservoirs in Tamil Nadu having an extent of 52,000 ha. Fishing in these reservoirs is being done involving the local inland fishermen on share basis except in few reservoirs. The Inland fishermen who depend on these resources for livelihood are facing financial constraints in replacing the old nets which are often damaged by the submerged objects. The financial implication involved on the purchase of nets burden the poor fishermen resulting very less catch per unit effort. In

order to improve their income by increasing the fishing efficiency of the fishermen, the Government will provide 50 % subsidy assistance for the purchase of 10 Kg of nets for each fishermen. Under this Scheme, 800 Inland fishermen will be benefited and the total estimated cost will be Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

12. FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Fisheries Co-operative Societies play a dynamic role in the upliftment of fishermen and fisherwomen in the State by extending many welfare Schemes to the members. About 5.62 lakh fishermen/fisherwomen have been enrolled as members of the fishermen co-operative societies. 54 fair price shops are being run by the fishermen co-operative societies.

The details of the Societies / Members are as given below:-

Society	No. of Societies	No. of Members enrolled
Marine fishermen Co-operative Societies	550	3,21,004
Marine fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	384	1,42,776
Inland fishermen Co-operative Societies	315	77,005
Inland fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	84	13590

Other types of Societies	21	6628
District fishermen Co-operative Federation	11	727
TamilNadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation	1	598
TOTAL	1366	5,62,328

13. TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN WELFARE BOARD

To provide social security and for ensuring well being of fishermen and labourers engaged in fishing and allied activities, Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board was established on 29.06.2007 and functioning from 04.10.2008 with its Head Office at Neelangarai, Chennai. A sum of Rs. 500.00 lakhs has been sanctioned as a Grant for the year 2007-08 for implementation of various welfare programmes. As on 31.03.2009, a total of 1,66, 834 fish labourers were enrolled in the Board. So far, 700 claims were sanctioned with relief / assistance for a sum of Rs. 21.44 lakhs under various Schemes of the Board. A sum of Rs. 42.64 lakhs was received as contribution to the fund of Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board from various agencies specified in the Act.

14. TAMILNADU FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

Tamilnadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited was established in 1974. The Corporation is carrying out the following activities:-

14.1. RESERVOIRS

The eight reservoirs namely Sathanur dam, Bhavanisagar, Aliyar, Amaravathi, Thirumoorthy, Uppar, Perumpallam and Palar-Porandalar are under the management of the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited in which systematic stocking of fish seeds is done. Out of these reservoirs, Bhavanisagar, Uppar and Perumpallam Reservoirs have been leased out. Harvesting of fish is done by engaging local fishermen who are members of the Inland Fishermen Cooperative Societies and are entitled for the value of 1/3rd of the catches as their share.

531.00 tonnes of fishes were exploited from these reservoirs and the revenue realization during 2008-09 is Rs. 213.80 lakhs (including lease income).

14.2 FISH SEED PRODUCTION

The Corporation is managing two fish seed production and rearing centres - one at Sathanur dam and another at Aliyar and fish seed rearing centres at Amaravathy, Thirumoorthy, Palar-Porandalar and Uppar. Fish seeds produced here are stocked in the reservoirs managed by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation (TNFDC)

in addition to supplying of fish seeds to the Fisheries Department, Fish Farmers' Development Agencies and private farmers. 157 lakhs of fish seeds were produced and supplied during 2008 –2009.

14.3 FISH PROCESSING

The Mandapam processing plant has been leased out for a sum of Rs.7.00 lakhs per annum.

14.4 DIESEL OUTLETS

At present, the Corporation is operating 27 diesel outlets in the Fishing Harbours and Jetties for the benefit of motorized country crafts fishermen and mechanized fishing boat operators. During the year 2008 –09, a total quantity of 78,308 KL of diesel was sold to fishermen.

14.5 FISH MARKETING

The Corporation is marketing fresh and fried fish in Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Pollachi and Tiruvannamalai through retail outlets. During the year 2008-09, 835 tonnes of fish worth Rs.754.00 lakhs were sold through these outlets.

14.6 SHRIMP HATCHERY AT NEELANKARAI

The hatchery facility at Neelankarai has been leased out to "Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture," a society of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for shrimp seed broodstock management and quarantine facilities.

14.7 MODEL SHRIMP FARM AT KARANGADU

Culture of Milk fish (*Chanos chanos*) is being undertaken by Tamilnadu Fisheries Development Corporation at Karangadu Model Shrimp Farm.

14.8 PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF ORNAMENTAL FISHES

The TNFDC has set up two fresh water aquarium cum ornamental fish sale centres at Aliyar and Thirumoorthy Nagar and Marine Aquarium at Mandapam. Apart from this, one ornamental fish sales centre is functioning at Chennai. A sum of Rs.9.75 lakh was realized during the year 2008 – 09.

14.9 SUPPLY OF OUT BOARD MOTORS(OBM)/INBOARD ENGINES(IBE) UNDER SUBSIDY TO MOTORISE THE TRADITIONAL FISHING CRAFTS

TNFDC is supplying Outboard Motors / Inboard Engines under subsidy to the fishermen for motorisation of their traditional fishing crafts.

14.10 OTHER SCHEMES

I. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India Schemes

- Strengthening of infrastructure for marketing fresh fish will be established in 4 places @ Rs. 4.00 lakhs each at a total cost of Rs. 16.00 lakhs

- Establishment of Fresh fish stall – cum- aquarium – cum- Seafood Court at Teynampet under grant assistance from Government of India at a total cost of Rs. 37.40 lakhs.

II National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) Schemes

- Establishment of modern stalls at five places at a total cost of Rs. 30.00 lakhs @ Rs. 6.00 lakhs each.
- Establishment of chill room facilities in four Fishing Harbours / Fish Landing Centres at a total cost of Rs.60.00 lakhs @ Rs. 15. 00 lakhs each.

III National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) Schemes

- Under reservoir management, scheme for stocking of seeds in the reservoirs managed by TNFDC, was implemented with financial assistances of Rs. 75.12 lakhs.
- Establishment of Fish Dressing Centre at a cost of Rs.100.00 lakhs for production of value added products and marketing at Royapuram Fishing Harbour, Chennai.
- Modernisation of wholesale fish market at Ukkadam, Coimbatore at an estimated cost of Rs.75.00 lakhs, with equity participation of NFDB Scheme.

15. TAMILNADU STATE APEX FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD. (TAFCOFED)

In order to uplift the economic status of the fishermen in Tamil Nadu, the Tamilnadu State Apex Fisheries Cooperative Federation Limited was formed. It was registered under Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Act, 1983 and started functioning from 6.11.1991 with Headquarters at Chennai. At present, 589 Primary Fishermen Cooperative Societies and 9 District Fishermen Cooperative Federations have become members in TAFCOFED and have paid Rs.89.095 lakhs as share capital.

TAFCOFED has established Diesel Bunks under income generating activities for supply of Sale Tax Exempted diesel to fishermen. In addition, sale of Out Board Motors (OBM)/In Board Engines (IBE), Service Centres and fish marketing are also being undertaken.

15.1. DIESEL BUNKS:

The TAFCOFED has established 8 diesel bunks in the following places to supply subsidised diesel to the fishers of country crafts and operators of mechanised boats:-

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Village
1	Tiruvallur	Pulicut
2	Kancheepuram	Neelangarai
3	Cuddalore	Annankoil

4	Nagapattinam	Nagore
5	Thanjavur	Sethubavachatram
6	Thoothukudi	Vembar
7	Thoothukudi	Tharuvaikulam
8	Kanniyakumari	Chinnamuttam

Action has been initiated to establish Diesel Bunk at Marrakanam in Vilupuram District, Jegathapattinam in Pudukkottai District and Keelakarai in Ramanathapuram District.

15.2. SALE OF OUTBOARD MOTORS (OBM)/INBOARD ENGINES(IBE)

TAFCOFED is also supplying Outboard Motor Engines (OBM)/ In Board Motors (IBE) to the fishermen under Central and State Subsidy Scheme. 1867 OBMs were supplied during 2008-09.

15.3. SERVICE CENTRE:

TAFCOFED is running one service centre at Mallipattinam in Thanjavur District for selling engine spares, fishing requisites and engine oil to fishermen.

15.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF FISH STALL

TAFCOFED has established a fish sale unit at Neyveli.

**K.P.P. SAMY,
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES.**



