

2.7. Fisheries

2.7.1. Fisheries Sector has been recognized as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries. Tamil Nadu with its' 1076 km of coastline (13% of country's coastline), 0.19 million sq.km. of EEZ (9.4% of India's EEZ) and a continental shelf of about 41,412 sq.km. is a leading State both in culture and capture fisheries. As against the total fishery potential of 0.965 million tonnes from both inland and marine resources of Tamil Nadu, the present level of fish production is 0.475 million tonnes which is about 49.5% of the total potential. The marine fisheries potential of the State is estimated at 0.719 million tonnes (0.369 million tonnes from less than 50 m. depth and 0.35 million tonnes beyond 50 m. depth) as against the all India potential of 3.934 million tones. Of the total brackish water area of aquaculture of about 55,907 ha, only about 8000 ha is actually under aquaculture production. The inland fisheries sector has about 3.71 lakh ha of water spread comprising of reservoirs (52,000 ha), seasonal irrigation tanks (127.430 ha), tanks (97,670 ha) and ponds (31,120 ha). The inland fishermen population is about 1.97 lakh, of which 0.60 lakh are active fishermen.

2.7.2. The fisheries sector contributes around 1.1 % to the total GDP, around 4.7% to the GDP of Agriculture sector and over Rs.6000 crore to the export earnings.

2.7.3. The State has a fishermen population of about 7.37 lakh, of which 2.80 lakh are actively engaged in fishing from 591 fishing villages. There are 1101 primary fishermen cooperative societies, which include 353 inland fishermen / fisherwomen cooperatives. Presently, there are about 12,000 mechanised fishing boats and about 50,700 traditional crafts of which 20,000 have been motorized.

X plan performance:

2.7.4. As against the outlay of Rs.204 crore, an amount of Rs.143.38 crore is expected to be spent during X Five Year Plan period. The major expenditure was towards Fishermen Welfare Schemes like construction of

houses, saving –cum-relief scheme, group insurance scheme and creation of infrastructure facilities like Fish land centres etc.

2.7.5. During the X plan period, the marine fish production had increased from 3.71 lakh M.T. to 3.76 lakh M.T. and inland fish production from 1.02 lakh M.T. to 1.06 lakh M.T.

Fisheries Development Mission:

2.7.6. The rationale for Fisheries Development Mission in the State is to enhance production of fish and sustain the productivity by fishermen, fish farmers and fishing industry, Sustain livelihoods and generate further employment for coastal and rural poor, improve the socio-economic conditions of the traditional fishermen and fish farmers, protect the interests of the traditional fishing communities and to improve the technology and asset-base of the traditional fisher folk and augment fish production for both domestic and export markets.

Strategies for XI Five Year Plan:

2.7.7. The major strategies envisaged during XI Five Year Plan are as follows:

Marine:

- ? The fishermen to be encouraged should go for diversified fishing methods.
- ? Due to increase in fishing effort, the inshore fishery has to be restored by two pronged approach- stock enhancing programme and artificial reef and through the conservation efforts by reduction of fishing efforts in the inshore fishery front.
- ? Promoting sustainable eco-friendly coastal farming with market support facilities.
- ? Creation of requisite infrastructure facilities
- ? Creation of awareness on Code of Conduct of Fisheries, sea safety.

Inland:

- ? Introduce and encourage the Integrated Fish Farming.

- ? Encourage measures for effective utilization of short seasonal water bodies for fresh water fish culture
- ? Bring forth policy measures to encourage coastal aqua farming.

2.7.8. The programmes proposed in the Annual Plan 2007-2008 are outlined below: -

Marine Fisheries

2.7.9. The Government of India and State Government have accorded sanction for a sum of Rs.1312.88 lakh for construction of 10 fish landing centres in Tamil Nadu. The Govt. of India have so far released a sum of Rs.505.80 lakh out of their 50% share of Rs.656.44 lakh. The State Govt. had also released their 50% share of Rs.505.80 lakh. Out of a total amount of Rs.1011.60 lakh, a sum of Rs.1028.01 lakh had been incurred upto 31.7.2005. Out of 10 places, work has been completed in 6 places. In four places, the work is in progress and in one place, due to law and order problem the work has been suspended. For completion of all the works, a sum of Rs.305 lakh is proposed for 2007-08.

2.7.10. Under the scheme for Tamil Nadu Marine Fisherfolk during lean months scheme, as per Govt. of India norms, a sum of Rs.75/- per month shall be collected from the beneficiary fisherman for a period of 8 months in a year and remitted into the Government account. The total sum of Rs.600/- thus collected will be matched with 50% contribution i.e. Rs.300/- each by the State and Central Governments. Thus a sum of Rs.1200/- will be disbursed to the beneficiaries during four lean months. 42,992 fisherwomen had been benefited during 2003-04. Under this scheme during 2004-05, 164453 fishermen and 49,282 fisherwomen have been benefited. During 2005-06, 1,83,404 fishermen and 76,256 fisherwomen were benefited. This scheme will be continued during 2007-08 also, at a total cost of Rs.820 lakh (State share only).

2.7.11. It is under consideration of the Govt. of India, for sanctioning a sum of Rs.360.00 lakh for distribution of 1800 outboard motors to the traditional fishermen for motorisation of country crafts. Under this scheme, a maximum subsidy of Rs.20,000 for OBM will be given which will be

equally shared by both State and Central Governments. This scheme will also be continued during 2007-08, with an outlay of 280.00 lakh (state share only).

2.7.12. In order to alleviate the sufferings of fisher folk in the State, the Government have taken a policy decision of construction of free houses to the fishermen from 1975-76. Under the scheme 50,887 houses have been constructed for fishermen. The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.740 lakh for the construction of 2000 houses under State scheme. Under Centrally Sponsored scheme (shared between State and Centre at 50:50) Government of India have released a sum of Rs.37.35 lakh towards first installement for construction of 2000 houses, 96 tube wells and community wells at an estimated total cost of Rs.992.72 lakh.

2.7.13. Under the scheme Tamilnadu Fishermen Group Insurance, the State and Central Government will equally contribute to the annual insurance premium of Rs.14/- for fisherman. No premium is collected from the fishermen. Under this scheme, the fishermen family will be given Rs.50,000/- against death/ permanent disablement and Rs.25,000/- for partial disablement. For 2005-06, more than 5,70,000 fishermen will be covered. This scheme will be continued during the Annual Plan 2007-08, under Non-Plan.

2.7.14. As per the present norms, the Central Government offers a sum of Rs.1.20 per litre and the State Govt. offers a sum of Rs.0.30 per litre and a total sum of Rs.1.50 per litre, towards diesel subsidy. In the meantime, the Government have accorded sanction for exemption from payment of sales tax on the sale of HSD Oil to fishermen for fishing activities and the scheme is under implementation from November 2004. As per the Guidelines of Government of India, where the sales tax has been exempted by the States, the expenditure towards subsidy will be fully borne by the Centre. Therefore, the Government have been requested for sanction of Rs.1428.22 lakh towards Diesel Subsidy. This scheme will be continued during 2007-08 also.

Tsunami and Relief Measures:

2.7.15. With a view to mitigate the sorrow of the affected fishermen and to enable them to resume their fishing activities, the Government have sanctioned various relief assistance to fishermen for repairing/replacing their damaged fishing craft/gear.

2.7.16. During the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs.1107.80 lakh was spent. An amount of Rs.421.09 lakh is expected to be spent during 2006-07. An amount of Rs.300 lakh is provided for this scheme for the year 2007-08.

Outlay for 2007-08:

2.7.17. The agreed outlay of Rs.103.14 crore is provided for the year 2007-08 under fisheries sector. Of this, the outlay earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan is Rs.20.63 crore.