



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS
2024-2025**

FIFTEENTH

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Report on the Demand for the Grant No.54
for the year 2024-2025**

DEPARTMENT : FISHERIES

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT

Presented to the House on 21st February, 2024.

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI - 781006**

CONTENTS

	Pages
1. Composition of the Committee	i
2. Introduction	ii
3. Report	
Chapter-I	1-2
Chapter-II	3-5
4. Action taken Report for the year, 2023-24	6-12
5. Observation & Recommendation, 2024-25	13-14

(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS, 2024-25**

CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhabendra Nath Bharali

MLA & Chairman

MEMBERS :

1.	Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
2.	Shri Utpal Borah,	MLA & Member
3.	Shri Sibum Misra,	MLA & Member
4.	Shri Rupak Sharmah,	MLA & Member
5.	Shri Kaushik Rai,	MLA & Member
6.	Shri Taranga Gogoi,	MLA & Member
7.	Shri Diganta Kalita,	MLA & Member
8.	Shri Darsing Ronghang,	MLA & Member
9.	Shri Rupsing Teron,	MLA & Member
10.	Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
11.	Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
12.	Shri Jolen Daimary,	MLA & Member
13.	Dr. Amiya Kumar Bhuyan,	MLA & Member
14.	Shri Basanta Das,	MLA & Member
15.	Shri Abul Kalam Rasheed Alam,	MLA & Member
16.	Shri Diganta Barman,	MLA & Member
17.	Shri Abdul Batin Khandakar,	MLA & Member
18.	Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah,	MLA & Member
19.	Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed,	MLA & Member
20.	Hafiz Bashir Ahmed,	MLA & Member
21.	Shri Aminul Islam (Senior),	MLA & Member
22.	Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
23.	Shri Charan Boro,	MLA & Member
24.	Shri Manoranjan Talukdar,	MLA & Member

OFFICERS, ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Hemen Das, Principal Secretary,
2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary,
3. Smti. Deerga Baruah, Deputy Secretary,
4. Shri Samir Das, Under Secretary,
5. Shri Dhanajit Talukdar, Special Officer,
6. Shri Madhab Chetri, Estate Officer,
7. Shri Mahen Ch. Doley, Superintendent Member's Hostel,
8. Shri Fakhar Uddin Chowdhury, Committee Officer,
9. Dr. Rosy Saikia, Language Officer,
10. Shri Baidurja Bharali, Superintendent,
11. Shri Bhaskar Saikia, Librarian,
12. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer.

(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this **TWENTY SIXTH REPORT** on Demands for **Grant No. 54** of the **Fisheries Department** for the financial year, **2024-25**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the **Fisheries Department** on **16th February, 2024**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on **19th February, 2024**.
5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the **Fisheries Department** for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.

Dispur :
Dated 19th February, 2024

Shri Bhabendra Nath Bharali,
Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (B) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

REPORT

CHAPTER-1

1. PRELIMINARY STATUS PAPER-GRANT NO.54

Fisheries and aquaculture have been gaining immense importance during the last few years, especially in addressing rural livelihood, providing self employment opportunities, supporting nutritional security and offering business & possibilities. Considering all those factors, more and more people are expressing their keen interest and getting involved in this sector in the state of Assam. Government has also been providing support in development of this sunrise sector and exploring the new opportunities. But, still, the average fish productions from these resources is much more less in comparison to its production potential. Thus, for sustainable development of these resource each scientific development and management including availability of seed, feed at the farmer's doorstep is imperative.

The state of Assam gifted with vast and varied water resources, including both natural and men - made water bodies, which provides scope for development of fisheries & aquaculture and allied activities.

Sustainable utilization of some of the potential resources in the state has contributing immensely towards achieving self-sufficiency in fish production with active contribution from the fish farming communities and stakeholders. As a result of the efforts of both government and fish farmers, the state has achieved a production level of 4.43 lakh MT of fish during 2022-23. Even though average fish production from these water resources is much more less in comparison to its production potential. Thus, for sustainable development of these resources, its scientific development & management including availability of seed, feed at the farmer's doorsteps is imperative. Presently, the state occupies 4th place in fish production among the inland states and 12th among all the states with inland and marine resources in India.

Department of Fisheries, Assam has been implementing several schemes with financial assistance from both Central and the State government for increasing fish production and productivity in the state. Major schemes being implemented are Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), World Bank funded APART project, NABARD assisted Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and schemes under SOPD in addition to schemes supported by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) Hyderabad, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for Fisheries Sector, Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS).

Government of Assam has taken initiative for an ambitious project for conservation and management of wetlands/beels known as 'Sustainable wetland and Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) Projects with funding under Asian Development Bank (ADB). Another project for a holistic fisheries development titled "Assam Fisheries and Rural Livelihood Project (AFDLP)" for funding under Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) with an aim to achieving self-sufficiency in fish production in the next five years is also in pipeline.

RECOGNITION:

Continuing the trends of national level recognition for last few years, Assam bags the following 3 prestigious National Level Awards at the Global Fisheries Conference 2023 held on the occasion of World Fisheries Day in Ahmedabad on 21st November 2023 in Hilly and NEH category from the ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India for the year 2023-Best State, Best District(Kamrup) and Best Fish Farmer (Nazrul Haque,Karimganj).

FISH AND FISH SEED PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS:

Fish seed and Fish Production during the last five years are as follows:

Year	Fish Seed (Million Nos)	Fish (Lakh MT)
2018-2019	9893	3.31
2019-2020	9519	3.73
2020-2021	9886	3.93
2021-2022	18219	4.17
2022-2023	20483	4.43
2023-2024(Anticipated)	21472	4.73

For overall development of the sector Department's major functions are :

- To increase fish and quality fish seed production in the State with optimum utilization of resources.
- To implementation of Fishery related schemes of the Government of Assam and Government of India.
- To identity and promote research and studies on fisheries and fishery related areas so that benefit can be disseminated to the grass root level users.
- To collect, compile, analyze and make available adequate / relevant statistical and other information for proper planning to promote fish farming and related industries/ activities
- To prepare / support in preparation / vet project reports and proposals related to Fisheries and fishery related industries.
- To provide extension services to Fish farmers / fishermen and fishery entrepreneurs.

CHAPTER-II

2.1 A total sum of Rs **16636.77** lakhs is required for approval of the House during the Financial year, **2024-25**.

The total allocation of fund under Grant No. 54 for both Revenue and Capital sector for administration of Fishery Department during the financial year 2024-25 is Rs **16636.77** lakhs which is presented before the House for approval. The total amount so allocated is proposed to be spent in the Revenue Expenditure.

The detailed Budget allocation under Grant No. 54 as under.

Estimate of the amount required for the year ending 31st March, 2024 to defray the expenses in connection with the Administration of "FISHERIES"

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL
VOTED	12336.77	4300.00	16636.77
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

Under the following heads, an estimated budget allocation has been fixed as shown below :

HEAD OF ACCOUNTS		
"2405"	Fisheries	12124.87
"2415"	Agriculture Research & Education	211.90
"4405"	Capital Outlay on Fisheries	4300.00
	Grand Total	16636.77

The amount so allocated is presented before the House and is proposed to be spent in the Revenue Expenditure and Capital Expenditure respectively.

While discussing the Budget provision for the year 2024-25, the Committee found the Budget so allocated comparatively less than the previous financial and there is no clear indication as to why as to why the Budget allocation has been reduced, however, the Committee feels that the Department should communicate with finance Department, Government of Assam for necessary Budget provision in order to restrict the hindrances that may arise while performing function of the Department.

The Committee examined Grant No.54 both major heads and minor heads and took evidence of the Departmental official.

The DRSC in its sitting held on 16th February, 2024, examined the papers & documents received from the Department and took evidence of the departmental representatives. At the same time, the Committee considered the Action Taken Report on the Recommendations made in its 26th Report presented to the House on 21st February, 2024.

A BIREF NOTE IN RESPECT OF GRANT NO. 54

Lining up with government of India's vision to bring about 'ecologically healthy, economically viable, and socially inclusive development' of the fisheries sector in the country, thrust has been given on holistic and robust development of the sector in the state of Assam. This endeavour calls for the need to address the critical gaps in the prevailing system and to adopt scientifically driven farming practices vis-a-vis sustainable eco-system and climate - resilient technologies.

With a view to address the Sustainable Development goals, especially to contribute mitigating hunger and poverty, fish and fish based activities has been proved to be an acceptable option to the people of the State. Increasing production fish and fisheries products alongwith support for fisheries infrastructure development will boost the state's economy. The fish-eating people in Assam comprises more than 90% of the population and are delighted to have fish in almost every meal, demand for fish is ever-increasing in the market. The department has been emphasizing on implementation of schemes for development of the potential water resources, supporting infrastructures and market chain development to address the demand-production gap. Development of this sector and sensitization of people also paved the avenues for self-employment and livelihood generation.

Fish farmers, fisher communities and upcoming fish-based entrepreneurs are the possessions and expectations of the state to bring about Blue revolution and Agro-Aquarian economy. For fulfilling Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayash' both Central as well as State Government is dedicated and committed to offer the best efforts for betterment and uplift of all the stakeholder involved in the promising Fishery sector in the state. As a part of celebration of Aazadika Amrit Mahotsav' development rejuvenation of the 'Amrit Sarovars' with a view to conserve water for the future in a mission mode is on the remarkable achievement of the Government. These water bodies are also promising as a potential resource not only for contributing to the State's fish basket but also to support the communities for income generation.

For uplift of the sector, Fishery Department has been functioning with the broad objectives of:

Horizontal growth through construction of ponds and reclamation / renovation of existing ponds and areas; Vertical growth through productivity enhancement by adoption of intensification of aquaculture inculcation of improved technologies, best management practices and integrated approach in fish farming for vertical growth; Self-employment generation through scientific fish farming practice, ornamental fish business and value chain development; Sensitization and awareness for popularization of scientific fish farming and conservation of resources. Capacity building and skill up-gradation of farmers and extension functionaries; Infrastructure development for production of quality fish seed and fish feed to ensure availability of quality fish seed and making quality fish feed available at affordable price. Conservation of fish species through implementation of legal provisions of Assam Fishery Rules and Assam Fish Seed Rules; Empowerment of resource poor section of the society and women by getting them involved in

fishery and related activities. Formulation of Policy related to fish and fisheries; Collate, compile, analyze and making available adequate / relevant statistical and other information for effective planning.

Proposals under the Grant No. 54 for the financial year 2024-25 are detailed below :

PROPOSAL FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

Under Grant No.54 during the year 2024-25, total budget estimate proposed is Rs.20182.78 lakh including Rs.13432.85 lakh under State Fund for Priority Development (SFPD) as per the sectoral allocation. Out of the total budget proposed, Rs. 7866.00 lakh is under capital outlay and Rs. 12316.78 lakh is under revenue outlay. The revenue outlay consists of Rs.6749.93 lakh for establishment expenditure including salary, wages & non-salary and Rs. 5566.85 lakh under SFPD.

Unlike previous years where sectoral allocation was given for only SFPD, during the current FY-2024-25, SOPD allocation included Establishment Expenditure excluding salary and wages. Total allocation for the purpose under capital outlay was rupees Rs.4566.00 lakh including 500.00 lakh under SOPD&EE and Rs 4066.00 lakh under RIDF. Additionally Rs 3300.00 lakh is proposed under Capital Outlay for EAP(AFPDL and SWIFT). Similarly, total allocation under Revenue Outlay under SOPD&EE was Rs.713.83 lakh. Additionally Rs 5300.00 lakh was proposed for CSS-PMMSY (CS and SS) as per GOI tentative allocation and Rs.6303.70 lakh for salary and wages, totaling to Rs 12316.78 lakh under Revenue Outlay.

Major scheme-wise activities, excluding recurrent expenditures under Establishment Expenditure proposed for the FY 2024-25 are summarized below:

- a. **Fish and Fish Seed Farming (General)**
- b. **Grants-in-aid to Assam\ Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd FOR Creation of Capital Assets.**
- c. **Fishery Extension Service.**
- d. **Head Quarter Establishment**
- e. **District Administration.**
- f. **Marketing and Transport of Fish**
- g. **State share for 'Group Accidental Insurance Scheme'.**
- h. **Grants –in-aid-salary**
- i. **CSS Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.**
- j. **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)**
- k. **Development of Fisheries Sector through EAP**

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT
ON THE OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE
DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (B)
DEPARTMENTS ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN ITS 25TH REPORT ON
DEMAND FOR GRANT NO.54 OF THE FISHeries DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR
2023-24.**

The Committee after holding a threadbare discussion and on close scrutinization of the Report related to Grant No.54, Fishery Department and the evidence tendered by the Departmental Representatives, made the following Observations & Recommendations.

1. The Committee expressed satisfaction on the progress of construction of ponds and tanks under the under the flagship scheme *Ghare Ghare Puhkuhri Ghare Ghare Maach* and on present status of fund release to the eligible beneficiaries.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that supply of fish farming inputs in the completed ponds and tanks under CMSGUY is to be expedited.

ACTION TAKEN:

- Till date, Fishery Mission Society (FMS) under Chief Minister Samagra Grammya Unnayan Yojana (FMS-CMSGUY) provided 1st installment of funds (for Fish Seed and Feed) to 5282 individual farmers and 250 Community Groups through DBT for a total amount of **Rs.582.68 lakh.**
 - FMS-CMSGUY submitted fund demand for an amount of Rs.658 lakh to the MMS-CMSGUY vide letter no.CMSGUY/FMS/08/2019-20/Pt-I/2678-2704 dated 06.12.2023 and response is awaited. Once received the funds, same will be utilized for inputs supply to the farmers through DBT for next fish farming period.
2. The Committee discussed the ongoing *Amrit Sarovar* scheme presently being implemented by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department. It is opined that as these water bodies are also the potential resource for enhancing fish production, Fishery Department need to be involved in the endeavor.

Therefore, the committee recommended that the Fisheries Department may be involved by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department for providing technical support and capacity building programme of the users of Amrit Sarovars for fish production after excavation.

It is also recommended that training of other interested Fish Farmers must be organized at block level for mass participation.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The Director of Fisheries, Assam has communicated to the Commissioner ,P&RD Department vide letter no.AF (P) 107/2021-22/10061 dated 16th November,2023 and requested to provide district-wise list of completed *Amrit Sarovar* tank for preparation of estimates for fund requirement against & supply of fish farming inputs as per suggestion of DRSC.

- Similarly, the Mission Director, Fishery Mission Society –CMSGUY also communicated the Commissioner, P&RD Department vide letter no.AF(P) CMSGUY/FMS/08/2019-20/Pt-I/2678-2704 dated 6th December /2023.
- In response, the Commissioner, P&RD communicated vide letter no.E-331719 I/380909/2023 dated 22-12-2023 is as follows:
 - I) Initial inputs for fish farming will be funded by the CMSGUY as subsidy amount
 - II) Sub-sequent investment in fish farming will be seamlessly managed by the Cluster level Federation of SHGs under Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) from the generated income. Also in case of *Amrit Sarovar* located in Forest land, Tea garden or religious institutions or school/colleges will be entrusted to the original land owners for operation and maintenance.
 - III) Pertaining to training to the members of SHGs to be involved in management and operation of *Amrit Sarovar*, the P&RD Department already approached to ASRLM and completed list of *Amrit Sarovar* is also shared for preparation of estimate.

DFDO,SDFDO,FDO of the Department are already in touch with the concerned P&RD Officials and doing co-ordination for success of the programme.

- The Department of Fisheries has already conducted 50 farmers training programme under CMSGUY for the beneficiaries of Ghare Pukhuri Ghare Ghare Maach in College of Fisheries, Raha,Krishi Vigyan Kendras,Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University and Assam University,Silchar covering more than 2100 farmers. During the year 2023-24,4 training programme covering 400 farmers were trained up in Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University and Assam University.
- All District Fishery Development Officers are instructed to organise block level training programme for interested fish farmers vide letter no.AF(P)/107/2021-22/1775-98 dated Guwahati, the 15th May/2023.

Accordingly, in most of the districts, training programme has been organised in selected blocks with funding from different organization such as NABARD,ATMA,GIZ,CMSGUY etc.

- 13 days residential training conducted under Indo-German development co-operation project, SAFAL-GIZ with technical support from Fishery Department. The training was implemented by SeSTA,ICCSPL and Kalong Kapili NGOs.294 community Resource persons from 11 districts were trained .These 294 CRP have further trained 3255 farmers through SeSTA,ICCSPL and Kalong Kapili NGOs.
- Under World Bank funded APART project, about 1200 farmers have been trained during 2023-24
- More than 2200 farmers have been trained under FPC,FPO through reputed NGOs in collaboration with fishery officials of the district.
- More than 100 farmers have been trained at RFTI, Amranga under Fishery Department.

- In addition to that exposure visits programme, demonstration programme are also organized.
 - Most of the field officials also attended various training programme as resource person. All field officers of the district participated in Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, 2024.
3. The Committee expressed satisfaction on the Fisheries Department's initiatives for enhancing fish production that resulted in availability of locally produced fishes in the market. The Committee viewed with contentment regarding the action taken by the districts concerned regarding measures taken through constituting task forces for controlling illegal fishes coming into the State from Bangladesh.

The Committee, therefore, recommended that Departmental effort for enhancing fish production in the state should continue.

The Committee also recommended that the Fishery Department should take initiatives for controlling illegal fishes reportedly coming to the State from Burma (Myanmar).

ACTION TAKEN : Fish Production Enhancement

- To accelerate the growth of aquaculture sector including enhancing fish production in the state, several steps have been initiated by the state govt. A large number of feed mills, hatcheries, new pond construction, beel development works are being implemented under various schemes like Rural Infrastructure Development Funds (RIDF) of NABARD, Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and World Bank supported Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (APART) in the state.
- All the DFDOs are asked to implement fully all these schemes particularly fish production enhancing schemes for minimizing the gap between demand and supply of fish in the market.
- The flagship schemes mainly PMMSY & World Bank funded APART has been implementing in almost all the districts for enhancing fish production through farming. Modern and advance fish farming technologies such as Re-circulatory Aquaculture System, Biofloc, Pen culture etc are introduced in almost all the districts of the state under PMMSY.
- In addition to that for enhancing capture of fish from rivers, fingerling stocking was carried out in more than 20 locations of River Brahmaputra and Barak.
- Pertaining to productivity enhancement of beel fishery, lease holders are regularly releasing fish seeds as per direction of AFDC from time to time. Department has released fish seed of 14 lakh in 1400 hectares of beels which will help in enhancing fish production in the Beel.

- To be competitive and leader in inland fish farming, Assam Govt. has sanctioned two mega project worth of more than Rs. 700 crores under Externally Aided Project (EAP) scheme to be assisted through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). This big investment will help in transforming the state's aquaculture sector in the coming days.

Fish coming illegally from other Countries

- The Fishery Department has notified one SOP vide order no. FISH 35/2023/152 dated 20.01.2024 regarding enhance surveillance capabilities, strengthening regulatory compliance and safeguard the health of the consumer on imported fishes to Assam from outside the state. For effective enforcement of the SOP, the State and District Task force will review the whole issue related to imported fishes periodically and will take follow up action accordingly.
 - All the District Fisheries Development Officers are asked to keep vigil for fish coming from Myanmar and asked to report DC for needful vide letter no. AF(P) 107/2021-22/1775-98.
4. The Committee observed that many fish farmers have been suffering loss due to the damage caused by natural calamities, especially flood, in the State.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that Fisheries Department should initiate proposals for provision of insurance of fish under aquaculture.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The Directorate of Fisheries has been approaching different general insurance for aquaculture crop insurance scheme from the year 2008 but unable to initiate insurance process till date.
- In the meantime, NFDB has introduced a pilot scheme on aquaculture crop insurance in selected states of the country. Assam was one of the state who took up the scheme.
- Premium for insurance was fixed as 5% annual input cost @ Rs.4 lakh per ha with 18% GST. The total amount of premium is computed for 1 ha water area is Rs.23,600/-. There was allotted physical target of 300 ha in a single cluster within a district.
- Based on the availability of the resources, the Director requested the NFDB Authority to allow 2 districts to consider the insurance area covering fixed 300 ha for insurance. After getting approval from NFDB, Morigaon & Nagaon Districts were selected for the insurance of aquaculture crops. After 2/3 months, the DFDOs informed the Directorate that the farmers are not at all interested to pay their insurance share of 70% to 80% as 20% subsidy will be extended by NFDB for general category farmers and for SC/ST/ Women farmers subsidy is 30%.
- After receiving negatives from above mentioned 2 districts, 3 districts of Barak Valley were asked for insurance. In that case also, no positive result is obtained so

- far. So, it is decided to return the fund received from NFDB for aquaculture crop insurance.
 - However, Department has been continuously discussing with insurance companies like ICICI, LOMBARD, Agriculture Insurance Company etc. and insurance intermediators like Absolute.org so as to develop a specialized farmers friendly insurance policy which may encourage our fish farmers to go with Insurance Policy. Banks will come forward for investment when there is insurance of crops in the sector.
5. The Committee discussed the action taken by the Assam Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd., as recommended during the previous year regarding preparation of a master plan for holistic development of potential part of the Deepor beel for alternative livelihood.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that a copy of all communications from Assam Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd., addressed to the Deputy Commissioner or any other authority in regard to development of potential part of the Deepor beel or alternative livelihood of beel users, be marked also to the Local MLA concerned for information. The committee further recommended that Fishery Department shall also take necessary initiatives in this regard.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The managing Director, AFDC Ltd has communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro) vide letter no.AFDC.927/2021/1068 dated 20.05.2023 for taking necessary steps for handing over the possession of the remaining portion of Deepor Beel to AFDC Ltd. with necessary notification. Responses are awaited.
 - A copy of that letter was also marked to the Hon'ble MLA, West Gauhati LAC for kind appraisal.
 - As the Deepor Beel is a Ramsar site, hence development and livelihood initiatives is to be taken very carefully and Department will try to explore the same under any of the Development schemes of the Department in the coming days.
6. The Committee observed that action has been initiated by Assam Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd. regarding development of potential large areas at Tangra GP covering about 700 bighas in Hojai district as recommended during the previous year, which need to be carried forward.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that, as the proposed area is under the jurisdiction of Forest Department, AFDC Ltd. and Fishery Department should communicate with Forest Department for handing over the proposed area to AFDC Ltd for initiating process for development and for providing livelihood opportunities. It is also recommend that all formal communication in this regard should be intimated to the local MLA concerned so that necessary action can also be initiated from the DRSC, if required.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The Managing Director, AFDC Ltd. has communicated to the Divisional Officer, South Division, Hojai vide letter no.AFDC.927/2021/1079 dated 20.05.2023 for taking necessary steps for handing over the possession of proposed area of 700 Bighas of land cover pond at Tongia GP of Lumding LAC with necessary notification but no any communication is received from their end till date.
 - A copy of that letter was also marked to the Hon'ble MLA,Lumding LAC for appraisal.
7. Observing the actions already taken by the Department, regarding strengthening of technical manpower as recommended by the Committee during the previous year, it is opined that considering the importance and activities of the Fishery Sector, there is further need of manpower for execution, monitoring and supervision of project/ scheme.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that necessary action to be taken for filling up all vacant posts at district level with full fledged office staff. In continuation of the previous year's observation, the committee's recommendation for creation of new posts under engineering wing, including SE, Assistant Executive Engineer in each zone/division and Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers in the fishery department remains stand.

ACTION TAKEN:

Following action have so far been initiated:

1. For recruitment of JE, Government has already submitted to Proposal to APSC for advertisement for engagement of 25 nos. JEs in the Department and expected to complete the interview by July-August/2024 as per the latest interview calendar published by the APSC.
2. Following proposals of recruitment has been under the scrutiny at the administrative Department:
 - For creation of 22 number of new posts from Grade-IV to DFDOs under BTAD.
 - Creation of 17 new posts of Grade-III & Grade IV in 3 districts, viz. Bajali,Hojai and Biswanath .
 - Creation of 19 posts of SDFDO,19 posts of Sr.Asstt,38 posts of Jr.Asstt and same number of post fro Grade IV, totaling 114 posts in 19 sub-divisions of the state.
 - Proposal for filling up existing vacancy of 38 posts of Jr.Asstt.& 61 Posts of Grade -IV.

- **Proposal for creation of 1 post of Suptd.Engineer,4 posts of Executive Engineers,9 posts of Asstt.Ex.Engg.,42 posts of Asstt.Engg.& 23 posts of JEs**

Creation of different categories of posts from grade-IV to DFDO under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council.

8. The Committee expressed satisfaction on the fact that during last year no fish mortality has been reported in Dighali Pukhuri.

Therefore, the Committee Recommended that technical support related to fish and fisheries in Dighali Pukhuri from Fishery Department and monitoring of water quality should continue.

ACTION TAKEN:

The DFDO, Kamrup (M) has assigned a team of technical official for monitoring of the water quality parameters of Dighali Pukhuri. The team is regularly monitoring the water quality and till now no hazard has been reported.

9. The Committee recommended providing training to the farmers at the block level in every District under Fishery Department to increase the production of fishes.

ACTION TAKEN:

As described in Point No.2

GRANT NO.-54

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After having a threadbare discussion on Preliminary status paper, Action Taken Report and Budget already presented to the House, the Committee made the following Observations and Recommendations

1.The Committee observes that the Department has selected 430 number of Community group out of this 250 number community group has been provided fund and remaining 180 number of community groups are yet to allocate funds under the **Fishery Mission Society (FMS)** under **Chief Minister Samagra Grammya Unnayan Yojona (FMS-CMSGUY)**.

The Committee recommends that the Department should take necessary initiatives to allocate a requisite funds to the remaining 180 Community groups as early as possible under the **Fishery Mission Society (FMS)** under **Chief Minister Samagra Grammya Unnayan Yojona (FMS-CMSGUY)**.

2.The Committee observes that the Department could not properly implement Amrit Sarovar Schemes in coordination with the Panchayat and Rural Development Department (P&RD) for effectively utilization of Fish Cultures, production of Fish in the State.

The Committee recommends that Fisheries Department should take provisions to constitute a convergence Committee in coordination with Panchayat and Rural Development Department (P&RD) to expedite and monitor for timely execution of Amrit Sarovar Schemes in the concerned District and State level.

3.The Committee observes that the Department has not initiated to demarcate all the Natural Beels.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Department should take proper provision to demarcate all the natural Beels in close co-ordination with the Revenue & Disaster Management Department. The Committee also recommends that the Department should take effective measures to control the illegal encroachment on the water bodies.

4.The Committee observes that the Department has not taken initiatives for training and capacity building programmes for the Fish farmers.

The Committee recommends that the Department should take appropriate measures for modern scientific training and capacity building programmes.

The Committee also recommends that successful trainees should be accommodated with government schemes or bank loan along with subsidy.

5. The Committee observes that the Department has not focused on production of varieties of Indigenous fish for conservation and the Department has yet to check the quality of all the imported Fish.

The Committee recommends that the Department should take necessary steps to increase the production of varieties of Indigenous Fish for conservation and also to check the quality of all the imported Fish.

6. The Committee observes that the Department has been using Urea Super Phosphate etc. and other Chemical to increase the production of Fishes which may not be good for human consumption.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Department should control in using such Chemical substances which is not good for Human Health.

7. The Committee observes that there are two huge area covering wet land at Tongia GP and Dakhinpar Thaisupar GP area, measuring 332 Bighas and 465 Bighas of land respectively.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends the concerned Department to use these huge wet lands to use for Pisciculture which would be very beneficial for economic growth.

8. The Committee observes that the Department has not taken necessary steps for proper development, conservation, tourism & pisciculture etc. of Son Beel which is the second largest wetland in Asia for revenue and employment generation.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends for proper action from the Department with ample budgetary provisions, which have the scope of substantial revenue and employment generation.

With these observations, the Committee recommend that the total amount of Rs.16636.77 lakhs as sought for, under Grant No.54-Fishery Department for the Financial Year 2024-25 be approved by the August House.

The Action Taken Report on the recommendations may be submitted to the Committee within 90 (Ninety) days from the date of presentation of the Report in the House.

2024

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