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Prawn Culture Laboratory Inaugurated

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

COCHIN, Sept. 11.

Increasing the production in all sectors was the urgent need of the hour and science and technology had a vital role to play in it, declared Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, here to-day.

Inaugurating a Rs. 5.3 lakh "prawn culture laboratory" at Narakkal, a fishing village near here, the Minister hoped that results of the research to be carried out by the laboratory would be capable of adaptation and pave the way for a significant expansion of the fishing industry.

The laboratory the first of its kind to be set up by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, is designed to carry out experiments to determine the necessary work details for the introduction of scientific prawn farming in the coastal and backwater regions of central Kerala. Work includes production of prawn seeds of desired species in large quantities, optimum intensity of stocking rate for the given area, food and feeding of the prawns stocked, and development of cheap artificial feed for obtaining maximum yield in the shortest time possible.

The Kerala Government has made available four hectares of culture ponds for the laboratory.

The laboratory has been started under an ad hoc scheme on "modern prawn culture and propagation" sanctioned by the ICAR.