

Centre to launch mariculture leasing policy for sustainable use of resources

Our Bureau

Kochi

Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, on Friday outlined a comprehensive plan to boost the mariculture sector of the country, saying that offshore cage farming is the immediate focus using bigger cages.

He was speaking after visiting the Vizhinjam Regional Centre of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

“Cage fish farming is to be expanded to the offshore waters with better cage designs having a size of 30 diameters or above that can accommodate lakhs of juveniles,” the Minister said. Currently, cage farming is undertaken in near shore waters using the 6-diameter cages.

He urged CMFRI to ex-



pand seed production technologies for finfishes to all the coastal States utilising the PPP mode. This would help address the seed constraints and make available the required seeds to the fish farmers all over the country.

PEARL FISHERY

The Minister said the Centre would soon come up with a Mariculture Leasing Policy to ensure the sustainable use of mariculture resources. This will ensure that mariculture operations are located in suitable areas and

they do not cause environmental damage, he said.

The Union Minister proposed a pioneering sea ranching programme of the hatchery-produced spats of the pearl oyster along the Tuticorin coast, which would be executed under the guidance of the CMFRI. Traditionally known as “Pearl City” on account of the prevailing pearl fisheries in the past in the area, Thoothukudi has a fascinating history which was an international cynosure in the days of yore for its pearl fishery.

ORNAMENTAL FISHERY

Referring to the high prospects of marine ornamental fishery, he urged the CMFRI to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to establish effective marketing strategies. This would provide an economic boost to the marine ornamental industry, he added.