

Chhattisgarh News Articles

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Chhattisgarh: Fishing community now gets benefits like farmers

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2022/state-editions/fishing-community-now-gets-benefits-like-farmers--cm.html>

"With the introduction of a fisheries policy in Chhattisgarh, the fishing community is deriving benefits like farmers. This includes zero percent loan facility and coverage under all other schemes of farmers, said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday. He was addressing the General Convention of 'Dheevan Samaj' at the Indira Gandhi Agriculture University auditorium at Raipur. He also administered oath to the newly elected office bearers.

He vowed to extend all help for the construction of a well-equipped building for the community once the land is allotted. He also rectified the confusion regarding the definition of 'fishermen' in the fisheries policy.

The state government has been working to empower every section of the society. By including fisheries as industry, it has been made equivalent to agriculture and all benefits of government schemes have been extended to the sector, said Baghel. The Chief Minister said the state has achieved average fish production of 4,000 tonnes per hectare. But some progressive fishermen using innovations are harvesting 10,000 tonnes per hectare, he said."

Chhattisgarh: Telemedicine for fishers community by NCDC AIIMS Raipur joint initiative

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/india-news-telemedicine-for-fishers-community-of-chhattisgarh-by-ncdc-aiims-raipur-joint-initiative/395272>

"Members of fisheries cooperatives in Chhattisgarh would now be able to consult doctors from AIIMS, Raipur for their medical needs. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala on September 20 launched a pilot project on telemedicine services, to be operated by AIIMS Raipur through the National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC), for members of the fisheries cooperatives under the central sector flagship program Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). "This would ensure that members of the fisheries cooperatives in Chhattisgarh, whenever in medical need, will be able to approach health specialists of AIIMS, Raipur from their remote locations through telemedicine facility." said Rupala after handing over a cheque for the Rs 50 lakh project to Dr Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director and CEO of the AIIMS Raipur to kickstart the pilot project. "Telehealth services have tremendous potential in our country where healthcare facilities are heavily concentrated in urban cities while those in the remote area like villages and coastal areas remain deprived of such benefits," said the Minister. Proposed as a startup activity by AIIMS, Raipur for next three

years, the project is being launched in a pilot mode from five centres namely PHC Patan (Durg district), PHC Saja (Bemetara), PHC Ratanpur (Bilaspur), PHC Dhamtari (Chamtari) and AIIMS Raipur (Raipur). It is a joint effort by the Central Government, Government of Chhattisgarh, NCDC and AIIMS Raipur. "The project is a way forward towards achieving Digital India Mission as envisioned by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In a pandemic-affected world, technology-enabled services including telehealth have become more relevant than ever. Given this, I am happy to inaugurate the telemedicine facility that will help bring access to quality medical consultation services to the people related with fisheries & fisheries cooperatives" Rupala added.

Later on, more districts will be covered under the project. With the launch of the facilities, the Government aims to bridge health disparities among fishermen and fisherwomen community associated with their respective cooperatives in the Chhattisgarh State, explained NCDC MD Shri Sundeep Nayak. The decision to launch the telemedicine facility was taken after it was found that many members from the cooperatives were shying away from availing medical services either because of living in far off areas, poverty or due to Covid fears. "The idea is to extend healthcare facilities to members of fisheries cooperatives societies in remote areas as well as cut down their medical expenditure. The penetration of quality healthcare services in remote areas will also create health awareness among the fisheries community," said Nayak. He explained that after consultation, if it was found that the patient needed more specialized treatment, ambulance service would be available. "It will also help them to take more informed decision on prevention, diagnosis and health condition," said Shri Jatindra Nath Swain, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, while appreciating the collaborative efforts of AIIMS, Raipur with NCDC. It will be guiding light for the startups to initiate innovative projects. Dr Nitin Nagarkar, said that AIIMS, Raipur had already been conducting teleconsultation services for the benefit of the public, mainly residing in the tribal regions of the State.

This activity was also further enhanced during this ongoing Covid pandemic. "We are happy to associate with the NCDC to provide high-quality care by providers and specialists in urban centers to the members of the fisheries cooperatives," Dr Nagarkar added.

Chhattisgarh: Fishery gets status of Agriculture

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/fishery-gets-status-of-agriculture-in-chhattisgarh.html>

"Fishermen, like farmers, in Chhattisgarh are set to get benefits such as interest free loans as well as concessions in water and electricity cess following the government's decision to give fishery the status of agriculture in the state. This will not only promote fishery in the state but

also bring about positive changes in the lives of 220,000 people engaged in the industry, an official communication said on Friday. In the last two and a half years, the government's efforts have resulted in a significant expansion of the fishery sector. The state has registered a growth of 13 percent in terms of fish seed production and 9 percent in fish production.

At present, fishermen get a loan of up to Rs 1 lakh at 1 percent interest and a loan of up to Rs 3 lakh at 3 percent interest. Now with fishery getting the status of agriculture, people in the fishery sector will get loans from cooperative societies at 0 percent interest. Fishermen will also have credit card facility. In Chhattisgarh, water for fish farming has to be supplied from irrigation dams and reservoirs through canal in an area of 30,000 hectares, for which fish farmers and fishermen pay Rs 4 per 10,000 cubic feet of water. Now they can get water supply for free and neither do they have to pay the electricity tax at the rate of Rs 4.40 per unit. With this decision, the cost of fish production will come down by about Rs 10 per kg, directly benefitting the people associated with fishery business. Chhattisgarh ranks sixth in the country for production of fish seeds and fishes. Now Chhattisgarh has a chance of moving up the rank and becoming the leading state in the field. Chhattisgarh is self-sufficient in terms of fish seed production and supplies fish seed to Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. In the last two and a half years, about 1,000 new ponds have been built for the purpose of fisheries with the help of the government. The government is formulating a new fish farming policy to promote fisheries and to provide more facilities to the fish farmers and fishermen in the state.

Chhattisgarh: Fish farmers be given interest free loans: Baghel

<https://www.indiancooperative.com/co-op-news-snippets/fish-farmers-be-given-interest-free-loans-baghel/>

"Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has suggested fish farming should be provided with interest free loans from cooperative banks and cheaper electricity like it is done with agriculture, reports Pioneer. Bagel was speaking at the Fishermen Convention organized by the Chhattisgarh Machuwara Samaj to mark the World Fisheries Day 2020. Several dignitaries including Chhattisgarh State Fishermen Welfare Board Chairman M.R. Nishad were present on the occasion. The chief minister called upon fishermen to use scientific methods of fish farming and advanced marketing facilities.

Chhattisgarh: 6th Spot for fish production; national award for two firms

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/raipur/chhattisgarh-at-6th-spot-for-fish-production-national-award-for-two-firms/articleshow/79334259.cms>

"Two fisheries companies will be conferred with national award with Chhattisgarh securing sixth position in the country for fish production. The state has recorded 13% increase in fish seed production in past two years. The award ceremony will be held on November 21 in New Delhi. State government has been encouraging fisheries and pisciculture that led to increase of 13 per cent in fish seed production and nine per cent in fish production in Chhattisgarh during the last two years. The award will be presented at a ceremony held at AP Symposium Hall, New Delhi, to mark the World Fisheries Day on November 21.

Within the ceremony, the MM Fish Seed Cultivation Private Limited, from Raipur will be honoured with a cash prize of two lakh rupees along with a certificate of appreciation on the account of Best Fisheries enterprises. Also, M. I. K company, of Dhamtari district will receive cash prize of Rs one lakh along with a certificate of appreciation, under the Best Proprietary Firm Cadre. Chief minister Bhupesh Baghel and Agriculture and Water Resources minister Ravindra Choubey have conveyed their regards and congratulated the fishing companies. Minister Choubey stated that the farmers practising fisheries or pisciculture in state are achieving continuous success by adopting the latest technology. The state is self-sufficient in the field of fish seed production. "It is a matter of immense proud for the state, that along with the supply of essential fish seeds in the state's fisheries, the state is also exporting fish seeds by the private sector to Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar", Choubey said.

Chhattisgarh: Abandoned mine turns as livelihood source for poor tribals

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2020/jan/20/chhattisgarh-abandoned-mine-turns-as-livelihood-source-for-poor-tribals-2091758.html>

"Surajpur district, in north Chhattisgarh, has taken an innovative route as an effective solution to a vexed issue of several abandoned mines lying idle without any reclamation process undertaken. One such deserted mines of the Coal India Ltd (CIL) at Kenapara in Surajpur, about 350 km north of Raipur, has been converted to yield promising scope on tourism and a good source of livelihood for the poor and tribals. Abandoned coal mine led to the creation of a huge water body covering an area of over 10.50 hectare with 1.75 km long stretch and a maximum depth of around 300 feet. A survey was undertaken by the district administration around mid-2019 and came up with an idea on fish farming through submerged cage culture, developing site for boating with a floating restaurant for tourists. The beautiful water body with adjoining

greenery is just 200 metres from the national highway and boasts of immense possibility to yield livelihood and an additional source of income for inhabitants of neighbouring villages. “We began the project on an experimental basis.

With very encouraging results, we will execute the concept in another three sites (abandoned open mines). In the first phase, pisciculture and boating are generating sustainable livelihood for the locals. The novel initiative meets the focus of our CM Shri Bhupesh Baghel to create livelihood opportunities locally wherever possible, said the Surajpur collector Deepak Soni. A cooperative society of farmers ‘Mahamaya Fisheries Society’ for pisciculture and the women organisation ‘Shiv Shakti Mahila Gram Sanghathan’ to manage the boating facility have been formed. Their members got trained on capacity building and skill. “41 poor tribal households productively engaged with fisheries are benefited with a good source of income, said Pitambar Sahu, president of the Society, which has put up 32 cages for pisciculture. Each cage fetches around 2 ton of fishes. “So far Society has earned Rs 15 lakh selling 17 tonnes of fish during the last four months, Sahu informed. Similarly, the women self-help groups (SHGs) from 186 poor households have been chosen for boating.

“It's improving our living conditions and reducing poverty for rural women. Since October last year our boating activity generated revenue of around 6 lakh for us, revealed Lalmani Rajwade, who heads the women organisation. A floating restaurant leads to additional revenue of rupees one lakh every month. The investment of Rs 1.97 crore was incurred by the South Eastern Coalfield Ltd of CIL under their ‘mine closure plan’ for the whole project at Kenapara. “The future plan is to develop the site as an Eco-Ethnic tourism hub which will include landscaping, promotion of water sports, cottages for stay, cultural centre among others, the district magistrate Soni revealed said. “There is no dearth of abandoned mines left deserted with no effective reclamation being done after the coals were excavated through open cast mining in Chhattisgarh, claimed social activist Laxmi Chouhan who moved National Green Tribunal for enforcing backfilling of abandoned mines.

Odisha: After Mahanadi, Chhattisgarh is eyeing Odisha's fish resources

<http://odishatv.in/odisha/after-mahanadi-chhattisgarh-is-eyeing-odishas-fish-resources-300273>

At a time when Odisha's concerns over decline in water flow of Mahanadi River are yet to be addressed, its fish resources are being targeted by Chhattisgarh. Lakhanpur block under Jharsuguda district is home to the backwaters of Mahanadi water from Hirakud dam. However, it is reportedly under control of a fishing mafia from Chhattisgarh. Sources said that the mafia is not only using illegal fishing methods, but also camping on the river bed and every day truckloads of fish are transported to Chhattisgarh.

"As the river flowing through our area has dried up, we have moved here for fishing to earn a living," admitted Laxmi, a fisherwoman from Chhattisgarh. Fishermen from Chhattisgarh are coming here for fishing and it has adversely affected our business, said Laxman Bagarti, a fisherman from Odisha. Jharsuguda collector, Bibhuti Bhusan Patnaik said that the administration recently came to know about the illegal fishing activities by Chhattisgarh fishermen in Odisha waters. "We will take strict action against those involved in any type of fishing activities in Odisha waters. We have already informed the police to conduct raids," said Patnaik.

Odisha and Chhattisgarh: Riverside locals face double jeopardy

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/riverside-locals-face-double-jeopardy.html>

The Mahanadi is known as the lifeline of thousands of fishermen families of both Odisha and Chhattisgarh. But in recent years, due to constant fall in its water level since the onset of summer, the fishermen are reeling under livelihood crisis. This year, the situation has become very critical. Dryness is seen everywhere after the Chhattisgarh Government blocked the water of the Mahanadi and its branches through construction of a number of dams and barrages in the upstream. The shortage of water in the river and in the Hirakud reservoir has posed a great threat to the livelihood of the fishermen families. Due to scarcity of fish in the river, fish catch has fallen drastically and consequently maintaining families has become very difficult for the poor fisher folk nowadays. The fishermen reside in 106 villages, including 79 of Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district.

Six cooperative societies have been formed in six clusters of the district. There are 3,167 registered members of the societies out of which 2,360 are male and 307 female. That apart, the non-members are large in number, who maintain their households either by fishing or farming. The families with agricultural land before inception of the Hirakud project became displaced

with the project and left agriculture as source of income. Later, due to want of proper settlement by the district administration, the displaced families continued to maintain their household by fishing from the Hirakud dam and got included in the category of fisherman in due course of time. Many also started growing. vegetables, paddy etc. along with fishing.

But, due to drying up of the Mahanadi river, both summer cultivation and fishing have been greatly affected. The situation has become worse when the fishermen cannot explore any other means to maintain their families. This has caused concern for the fishermen of not only Jharsuguda or Bargarh districts, but for those residing near bank of the Mahanadi river in the neighbouring Chhatisgarh State. “With the decreasing trend of water flow in the Mahanadi and Hirakud reservoir affecting fish catch, the cooperative societies are not able to pay the lease value to the State Government. In the coming days, the fishermen will be forced to go outside to seek jobs,” said District Fisheries Officer Labnidhar Behera. A negative effect is being experienced all around after water level in the Mahanadi and Hirakud reservoir has gone down, he added.

Odisha: Despite Chhattisgarh dam spree, Odisha fish and power output up: Minister

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2018/apr/21/despite-chhattisgarh-dam-spreed-odisha-fish-and-power-output-up-minister-1804390.html>

Power generation from hydro projects on Mahanadi has improved and fish production has gone up despite construction of dams and barrages by Chhattisgarh Government on the upper catchment of the river. The State Government admitted this in written replies to separate questions from Dilip Ray (BJP) in the Assembly on Friday. Minister of State for Energy Sushant Singh said Odisha has hydro power projects at Burla and Chiplima on Mahanadi river, at Balimela on Sileru river, at Rengali on Bramhani river, at Bareniput on Kolab river, at Mukhiguda on Indravati river and Ankadeli on Machhkund river. The Minister, however, said the affect on power generation due to construction of barrages and dams on the upper catchment of the rivers is yet to be assessed by the Government. However, from the statistics provided in the reply it has come to light that power generation from Hirakud dam project in 2013-14 was 7020.1 lakh units and decreased to 4570.9 lakh units in 2015-16.

But, power generation from Hirakud dam increased to 5358.8 lakh units in 2016-17 and 6142.9 lakh units in 2017-18. Power generation from Chiplima hydro project also showed similar trend. Generation declined from 3122.3 lakh units in 2013-14 to 2167.5 lakh units in 2015-16 but increased to 2192.3 lakh units in 2017-18. The Minister said power generation from seven hydro projects had declined from 72046.7 lakh units in 2013-14 to 45420.5 lakh units in 2015-16. But subsequently, it increased to 47742.1 lakh units in 2016-17 and 57308.9 lakh units in 2017-18. Power generation has increased in all the project except on Machhkund river, he said. Contrary to the claims at the official and non-official levels about decrease in fish production due to

construction of dams and barrages on Mahanadi river by Chhattisgarh, statistics given in a written reply by Fisheries Minister Pradip Maharathi to a separate question by Ray prove otherwise.

Fish production in the State increased from 11,108 tonne in 2010-11 to 27,594 tonne in 2016-17. The State Government had said in the Assembly that Chhattisgarh Government has already constructed 2268 dams and barrages in the upper catchment of Mahanadi river while 443 more projects are under implementation.

India: Chhattisgarh With Higher Limits Of Fiscal GSDP: Eco Survey

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/raipur/cgarh-with-higher-limits-of-fiscal-gsdp-eco-survey.html>

Chhattisgarh is among six States mainly Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Bihar having higher limits of 3.5 per cent of GSDP because they have strong overall fiscal positions, as deemed by the 14th Finance Commission's (FFC's) criteria, the India Economic Survey (Volume II) of the Union Ministry of Finance released recently has informed. States are ranked by the extent of fiscal space. The fiscal limit for most states is 3 per cent of GSDP. Comparing limits with the BE estimates for 2017-18, only seven States have fiscal space exceeding 0.5 per cent of GSDP. The States with the most space in rupee terms are Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. In relative terms, Jharkhand also has considerable space, amounting to 0.7 per cent of GSDP. States with no additional deficit capacity include Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. An analysis of the State level Budgets for 2014-15 and 2015-16 (RE) shows that the increase in share of social services varied widely across States.

While the increase in social sector spending was in the range of 15 to 20 per cent in West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, the increase was more than 45 per cent in the poorer States like Bihar 46 per cent Chhattisgarh 49 per cent and Jharkhand 53 per cent. Notably, the "Economic Survey 2016-17" report of Chhattisgarh Government was placed on the Table of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly by Chief Minister Raman Singh in March this year. As per advance estimate, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) (market price) at constant price is likely to grow at 7.14 per cent over the previous year 2015-16, it informed. The Growth in Gross State Value Added (basic prices), Agriculture sector (Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing), Industry sector (Mining and Quarrying, Construction, Manufacturing and Electricity, Gas & Water supply) and Service sector are expected to be 7.40 per cent, 5.87 per cent, 6.11 per cent and 9.90 per cent respectively, over the previous year.

The GSDP at current price (market price) is likely to increase to Rs 2,90,140 crore in the year 2016-17 from Rs 2,60,776 crore as estimated for the year 2015-16 with 11.26 per cent increase compared to the previous year. The Gross State Value Added (basic prices) is expected to

increase from Rs 2,46,993 crore to Rs 2,75,655 crore. Contribution from Agriculture sector (Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing) increase to Rs 48,522 crore from Rs 43,419 crore; from Industry sector (Mining and Quarrying, Construction, Manufacturing and Electricity, Gas & Water supply) it increased to Rs 1,27,389 crore from Rs 1,16,589 crore and that from Service sector raised from Rs 86,985 crore to Rs 99,744 crore. Per cent increase compared to the previous year are 11.60 per cent, 11.75 per cent, 9.26 per cent and 14.67 per cent respectively. Chhattisgarh is among 13 States which had been mentioned in the Economic Survey report 2015-16 as a success story on use of drip irrigation by farmers on their lands.

The results from an impact evaluation of National Mission on Micro Irrigation of the Union Ministry of Agriculture conducted in 64 districts of 13 States mainly — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand — are revealing on the benefits of drip irrigation, according to the survey report. There were substantial reductions in irrigation costs and savings on electricity and fertilisers. This is because water is efficiently supplied and hence pumps are used for a limited time. Moreover, water soluble fertilisers are supplied directly to the root of the plant and hence there is less wastage, it stated. Yields of crops also went upto 45 per cent in wheat, 20 per cent in gram and 40 per cent in soybean, the report stated.

Chhattisgarh: Chhattisgarh continues to block Mahanadi water at Kalma Barrage

Neighbouring Chhattisgarh has continued to block Mahanadi water to Odisha through the Kalma barrage severely affecting the water flow into the Hirakud reservoir. According to sources, over the past one and a half month, out of the 67 gates of the barrage, water is being released through one gate only in a bid to stock water at the upper catchment of the barrage. Sources reported that by blocking of water at the gates of the barrage has noticeably reduced the water flow in the lower catchment of the barrage and into the Hirakud reservoir in Odisha. Locals from Bargaon village near the barrage have alleged that they are not getting enough water for farming and the fishermen's livelihood is also in danger. "Most of the water is being used by industries. We get no water to sustain our livelihood," said a local fisherman.

The ruling-BJD in Odisha has come down heavily on the Centre and the Chhattisgarh government for such blocking of Mahanadi water. Moreover, the State government has also raised questions before both the governments on such tactics. While BJD has said that it will move the court in this regard, the Odisha BJP pledged its support for the interests of the people of the State. "If anyone is trying to dry out the Mahanadi River, then it is the BJP government in Chhattisgarh and the Odisha BJP is indirectly supporting it. If they do not take our complaint seriously then the State government will be forced to consider other alternatives including moving the court," said BJD spokesperson, Rabi Narayan Nanda. "This is a tussle between two governments. Hence the BJD should not do politics over it. But the Odisha BJP will try and

ensure that the interests of the State is not harmed,” said BJP’s chief spokesperson, Sajjan Sharma.

Chhattisgarh: Villagers protest against Chhattisgarh irrigation project

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/villagers-protest-against-chhattisgarh-irrigation-project-116101900598_1.html

Villagers have come out in protest against the Gagar irrigation project in Chhattisgarh’s Balrampur district. The project on Gagar River would be built with an estimated cost of Rs 35 crore and would have potential to irrigate 3500 hectare additional land in the Lundra development block of Sarguja division. About five villagers housing a population of 10,000 would be affected. U D Ramtane, the Executive Engineer of the water resources department, said they had deposited Rs 17 crore with the district administration for land acquisition. Before the process of land acquisition could start, villagers had come out on street to lodge protest against the plan. The villagers said the special gram sabha convened for the project in different villages had refused the plan. Despite the protest, the district administration is allegedly planning to forcefully acquire the land for the project.

Under the banner of Chhattisgarh Kisan Sabha and Adivasi Ekta Mahasabha, the villagers marched out a rally in Ambikapur, the divisional headquarters of Sarguja. A memorandum was given to the district authorities. The officials however did not comment on the development. C P Shukla, Chhattisgarh’s Kisan Sabha’s secretary, said the officials were trying to forcefully take over the land for the project despite the gram sabha passing resolution to oppose it. The district administration had served notices to the villagers asking to evict the place, he said. Sarguja is fifth scheduled area and the administration cannot ignore the gram sabha’s proceedings for land acquisition, he added. The villagers protest would intensify if the administration tried to forcefully acquire the land, Shukla said.

Chhattisgarh: 'Chhattisgarh farmers should be number one in seed production'

<http://thehitavada.com/Encyc/2016/9/13/%E2%80%98garh-farmers-should-be-number-one-in-seed-production-.aspx>

Farmers of Chhattisgarh are needed to be made number one in production of seeds as acreage of oilseeds is comparatively less in the state and 45 percent oil is imported. Seeds are everything in agriculture and if quality seeds are supplied in right time then agriculture production can be increased by ten to fifteen percent, said Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh in his address at the IGKV convocation ceremony on Monday. Chhattisgarh is full of natural and human resources and in this state, variety of crops are grown in the area from Koriya to Konta,

lending a beautiful example of crop diversity. In the northern hills, litchi is a cash crop and there are great possibilities of floriculture in Jashpur, Koriya and Ambikapur districts. Profit is comparatively more from these crops and it is challenge to make market of these crops available to the farmers, the union minister said. Governor and Chancellor Balramji Dass Tandon said that such a road map needs to be made for agriculture development in which bio-farming is used and maximum benefit is gained from per unit cost. Women farmers need to be encouraged for making bio-farm.

Despite increase in agricultural production, the country is lagging behind when compared with the demand of pulses and oilseeds. Edible oil has to be imported. One more revolution is needed for pulses, oilseeds and horticulture. In comparison to the 52 percent population of the country, it is 65 percent population of Chhattisgarh that is dependent on agriculture, but partnership in the Gross Domestic Product is continuously declining. Along with horticulture crops, animal husbandry and fisheries needs to be encouraged in integrated way. There is no dearth of land and water in the state, but efforts needs to be made so that farmers two and three crops agriculture in place of one crop so that the farmers get work round the year. For rapid progress of the state, it is necessary that the state at least equalize with the national average in agricultural production.

Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh and State Agriculture Minister Brijmohan Agrawal highlighted the steps being taken by the state government for progress in agriculture education and agriculture. Dr Raman Singh said that irrigation capacity reached up to 23 percent in six decades in the state, but in the past one decade, this capacity has been increased to 34 percent. The union minister reviewed the major agriculture development programmes of Chhattisgarh. Tourism and Culture Minister of the state Dayaldas Baghel was also present. The union minister praised the implementation of the agriculture programmes after noticing progress of the state in food grains, pulses and oilseeds production in the period from 2003-04 and 2013-14.

Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) asks Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoEF) for full status report on Polavaram

<http://odishatv.in/odisha/body-slider/ngt-asks-moef-for-full-status-report-on-polavaram-163185/>

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) today issued an order to the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoEF) to submit a complete status report on the controversial Polavaram project. The tribunal directed the authorities of the ministry to appear before it in person. Sources said the next hearing for the case is scheduled for September 5. Earlier this month, the NGT had ordered a joint inspection of the Polavaram dam construction site by the Andhra Pradesh Government, State Pollution control Board and Polavaram Project Authority following a complaint about dumping of mud in the West Godavari district. Notably, both Odisha and Chhattisgarh are objecting to the project. But that has not stopped the Andhra Pradesh government from going ahead with work on the project, which has been accorded the status of a national project.