Law to regulate fish auction and sales, says minister

The new law will be applicable to seas, lakes and inland fishing sectors, while the fine against catching juvenile fish will remain.

Awards for farmers

The minister distributed awards for best fish farmers in the state at the function. Chirakkara gramam panchayat, Kollam, was recognised for its outstanding performance in inland fisheries. Pradeep Jacob, of Tinvalia, has bagged the award for the best freshwater fish farmer. Lyli Johnny, of Mala, received the best brackish water fish farmer award and P K Sukumaran, of Thiruvalla, won the award for the best shrimp farmer. A Siddique, of Perumathura, won the award for the best aquaculture promoter. Jolly Varkey, of Thodupuzha, won the state award for adopting modern methods of aquaculture. All the awards, except the one for the best aquaculture promoter, carry a cash prize of ₹50,000, a citation, and plaque.

No formalin presence found in fish consignment at Ekm rly station

THE Food Safety Department and the Railways conducted a surprise inspection of the fish that arrived at Ernakulam North Railway Station on Monday. The preliminary inspection was conducted using the rapid test strips developed by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIPT). According to K V Shibu, district food safety officer, the preliminary tests didn’t find the presence of formalin. “We didn’t find the presence of formalin in the samples collected from the boxes of prawns that had arrived from Tamil Nadu. However, samples will be sent to the CMFRI and also other labs for further testing,” he said. The raid began at 10.30 am on platform No. 2 at Ernakulam North Railway Station.

The officers had to wait for the consignment from Andhra that arrived in Sabari Express. The raid was wound up by late afternoon. They collected three sets of samples from 12 boxes of fish. “The fish had arrived from Tamil Nadu and Onag in Andhra. We collected samples from the prawn, pearl spot and tilapia consignments for further testing. The consignment that arrived from Andhra too didn’t test positive for formalin,” said Santhosh, Railway food safety officer. He said the Railways frequently conducts such checks and if the fish are found to be of substandard quality, the consignment is destroyed. “We don’t want substandard fish to enter the market in the dried or other forms,” said the officer. According to the officer, more such raids are planned and will take place at the Railway stations in Thrissur, Kollam and Palakkad in the coming days.