

India during the last three years has been as under:

Year	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)
1986	2.15
1987	1.93
1988	2.24

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Cochin and Narakkal Centre of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) have stepped up research on seafarming/mariculture and shrimp aquaculture.

To support shrimp farming in Kerala, a shrimp hatchery has been established at Mopla Bay. Government is providing technical assistance to the farmers for scientific shrimp/fish farming. Under the Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development, four farm projects covering an area of 149 ha. have been sanctioned. One Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been sanctioned. In addition, a project on integrated development of prawn farming in Kerala with Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has been initiated at a cost of Rs. 60.00 crores for development of about 1500 ha. of brackishwater area in the State.

[Translation]

Settlement of Soviet Jews in Occupied Territories in Israel

2621. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heads of Missions of Arab countries had held talks with him on the question of setting of large number of Soviet

Jews in occupied territories in Israel;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held; and

(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation of the Arab Heads of Mission met me on March 1, 1990 to discuss developments relating to the proposed settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

(b) and (c). I conveyed to them that India shared the concern of the Palestinians and the Arab countries in this matter. I reiterated India's well known position on the illegality of occupation of these territories by Israel and that such settlements would only compound the illegality. I also stated that such settlements would raise additional difficulties in the creation of conditions necessary for initiating the negotiating process for a peaceful settlement of Palestinian issue.

Setting up of Potato Board

2622. SHRI JAGDISH SINGH KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Potato Board like the Tea Board keeping in view the increasing demand of potatoes abroad; and

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to set up regional offices of the proposed Potato Board in Uttar Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.