

context of the formulation of the VIII Five Year Plan has taken into consideration the major recommendations of the National Commission on Urbanisation while preparing urban strategies for the said Plan.

Protection to Disabled Persons

*235. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of existing laws are sufficient to protect the disabled persons;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation to amend the existing Penal Code and other laws to help the disabled;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the amendments proposed to be made in different Acts to protect the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The Government received representation from Federation for the Welfare of the Mentally retarded (India) suggesting for amendments to the existing laws for providing protection for persons with disability. The suggestion is that Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Laws of Evidence and other Special laws like Suppression of Immoral traffic Act Marriage and Dowry Acts should be screened to give greater protection to people with disability, particularly the mentally retarded.

(d) The Ministry of Home Affairs is already seized of the problem of amending the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.

Deep Sea Fisheries

*236. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has recommended to the World Bank to make available funds for the development of deep sea fisheries in India;

(b) if so, the funds likely to be received from the World Bank; and

(c) the details of the plans of the Government to utilise the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) While forwarding a Report submitted by FAO Consultant on Study of Deep Sea Fisheries Development in India, FAO has intimated that the Report was also being forwarded to the World Bank with a recommendation for funding initially for the follow-up mission and subsequently for full project implementation.

(b) and (c). No formal request has been made to World Bank for funding of the project. The Report has been discussed at interministerial level recently and a proposed line of action prepared.

[Translation]

Development of Fisheries in Gujarat

*237. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated area suitable for fisheries development in Gujarat;

(b) the total area brought under fisheries in the State during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken so far by the Government for development of fisheries in the State; and

(d) the amount allocated to Gujarat for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAHKAR): (a) and (b). Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 18, 781 ha. of fresh water tanks and ponds and 27 ha. of coastal brackish water area have been developed so far out of the estimated potential of 34,000 ha. of fresh water tanks and ponds and 95,000 ha. of coastal brackish water area respectively.

(c) and (d). Central assistance amounting to Rs. 37.00 lakhs for 17 Fish farmers' Development Agencies and Rs. 23.86 lakhs for 3 Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agencies has been released during the last three years to Gujarat for development of aquaculture.

[English]

Foot and Mouth Disease among Livestock

*238. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crossbred and high yielding indigenous livestock are more prone to foot and mouth disease;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to contain this disease?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JHAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Crossbred are highly susceptible to foot and mouth disease. The high yielding indigenous livestock are also susceptible to foot and mouth disease, although not to the same extent.

(b) The natural resistance against foot and mouth disease is relatively low in the crossbred due to genetic causes.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Studies conducted in selected areas under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Foot and Mouth Disease revealed higher rates of morbidity in crossbred followed by high yielding indigenous livestock.

(e) Measures taken to control/contain foot and mouth disease include extensive vaccination of the susceptible livestock with FMD vaccine, adoption of sanitary and hygienic measures, restriction on the movement of animals and palliative treatment to the effected animals.

Prawn Culture in Kerala

*239. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance given during 1991-92 to Kerala for prawn culture;

(b) the total export of prawn from Kerala during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent on prawn hatcheries in Kerala during each of the last three years; and

(d) the action plan proposed to increase the production of prawn in Kerala?