

**Deep Sea Fishing Industry**

\*451 PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARU Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) the present state of Indian deep sea fishing industry

(b) whether a number of Indian owned deep sea fishing vessels are lying idle in Visakhapatnam and

(c) if so the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) The Indian deep sea fishing sector consists of indigenously owned vessels chartered vessels and vessels operated under joint venture leasing and test fishing. A number of deep sea fishing units in respect of the 1840 indigenously owned vessels consisting mainly of shrimp trawlers had become sick due to a slump in the international market for shrimp and over exploitation of shrimp resources among other reasons. The deep sea fishing sector is still at a developmental stage in India and the Government is encouraging joint venture/leasing/test fishing in order to develop the sector to increase production and to maximise exports. The process of development also envisages modification of part of the present fleet for undertaking exploitation of non-shrimp resources

(b) Yes Sir

(c) In order to provide relief to sick deep

sea fishing units, a scheme for rehabilitation was announced in April 1991 which was further liberalised in June 1991

**Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Meghalaya**

\* 452 SHRI PETER G MARBANIANG Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to expand and modernise the telephone exchanges in Meghalaya particularly in Shillong and Jowai

(b) if so the details thereof and the time by which the programme for modernisation and expansion is likely to be taken up and

(c) if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHAM RAM) (a) and (b) Yes Sir existing electro mechanical telephone exchange of 5500 lines capacity at Shillong has been replaced by an E-10B electronic telephone exchange of 8000 lines capacity on 21 3 1993

Jowai is already being served by an electronic telephone exchange which is being expanded from 380 lines to 460 lines by 31 3 1993

(c) Does not arise

**Foreign Tourist Arrivals**

\*453 SHRI SVEDSHAHABUDDIN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state