

I.G. has been posted as Director (Security) in O.N.G.C. in the North-East region.

Control of Water Hyacinth

1303. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water hyacinth weed could be effectively controlled by releasing *Neochatina Weevils*;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise this technique to control the water hyacinth which block several irrigation canals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Central Integrated Pest Management Centres under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage have demonstrated successful control of water hyacinth by releasing *Neochatin weevils* in the an area of 5286 ha. in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Similar promising results have been achieved by the institutions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Kerala Agricultural University.

As for irrigation canals, some releases have been made wherever request has been received from the concerned authorities.

World Bank Report on Fisheries

1304. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Report titled "Fisheries and Aqua culture Research

Capabilities and Needs in Asia," forecasts that there is likely to be a stagnancy in marine catch along the coastline in inshore area;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to tackle this situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The World Bank Report has not yet come to the notice of the Government. However there has been a steady growth in the production of fish from coastal waters in recent years.

(c) However, Government are taking steps to extend the range of operation of the fishing vessels to off shore waters by motorisation of traditional craft, introduction of off shore peiagic fishing boats, etc.

Request for Participation of Oil India Limited in Gas Cracker Project

1305. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has requested the Union Government to allow Oil India Limited to participate in a Gas cracker Project with a substantial equity holding; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Tissue Culture Technique

1306. PROF. UMMAREDDY

VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tissue culture techniques are widely used in the country to boost agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof and achievements made so far;

(c) whether this technique has also been introduced on commercial scale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Sir, Tissue culture techniques are being used only on a limited scale for increasing agricultural production in propagation of elite plant material of crops like ornamental foliage plants, orchids, banana, sugarcane and cardamom. Tissue culture technique is also being used for conservation of germplasm of crops propagated through vegetative means and for generating new genetic variations in crop plants.

(c) Yes.

(d) Tissue culture technique is being used on commercial scale in orchids, foliage plants, small cardamom and banana.

[English]

**Acquisition of Land for
Visakhapatnam Steel Project**

1307. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will

(i) Original petition cases U/S 18(1) of L.A. Act, 1894 etc.	-	157
(ii) Appeals filed by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh against orders of the Lower court and pending in the High Court	-	57
(iii) Appeals pending in Supreme Court	-	34

National Fishing Harbour Authority

1308. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will

the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons displaced as a result of land acquisition for the Visakhapatnam Steel Project;

(b) the criteria adopted in fixing the price of land to the land oustees;

(c) the compensation paid to them;

(d) whether some cases are pending in the court; and

(e) if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As a result of land acquisition of Visakhapatnam Steel Project (VSP) 14,688 persons have been displaced.

(b) Compensation for lands acquired for VSP has been paid at the following rates:

(i) Dry land	-	Rs. 17,000 per acre
(ii) Wet land	-	Rs. 20,000 per acre
(iii) Village site	-	Rs. 6/7 per sq. yard
(iv) State land	-	Rs. 1270 per acre

(c) An amount of Rs. 27.75 crores has been paid to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh towards payment of compensation for the lands acquired for VSP.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The details of cases pending in courts are given below:-

the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set