

offices and telephone exchanges set up in Rajasthan during the Seventh Five year Plan; and

(b) the number of post and telegraph offices and telephone exchanges proposed to be opened during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Number of Posts, Telegraph Offices and Telephone exchanges set up in Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) is as under:-

Post Offices	175
Telegraph Offices	349
Telephone exchanges	270

(b) It has recently been decided that the Eighth Five year Plan will commence from 1.4.1992. The targets for opening of Post Offices during the newly determined Eighth Five Year Plan have not yet been finalised. For 1991-93, it is proposed to open 125 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 12 Sub Post Offices in Rajasthan. It is also proposed to set up 250 telephone exchanges and 16 Departmental Telegraph Offices besides phonocom Telegraph service at a large number of selected Long-distance public telephones depending upon the public demand in Rajasthan during the Eighth Plan.

[English]

Prawn Acquaculture

5086. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope for the

expansion of "Prawn acquaculture" in the abundant brackish water available along the coast of Bay of Bengal in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote prawn acquaculture in this region;

(c) the number of persons provided with employment and the achievement made in the prawn cultivation in that State during last three years; and

(d) the future plan drawn up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Orissa has a potential of about 80,000 ha. of brackishwater area.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government for development of prawn farming in Orissa include:

- (i) establishment of prawn farms at Sartha (Phase I & II) in Balasore district, Mudirath (Phases (& II) in Puri district and at Mouza Jamboo in Cuttack district;
- (ii) establishment of Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies in the districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Ganjam and Puri;
- (iii) Setting up of prawn seed hatcheries at Gopalpur in Ganjam district and at Chandrabagha in Puri district;

(c) The Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies in the districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Ganjam and Puri have generated employment amounting to about 49 lakh man days, brought under prawn

farming 7080 ha. and imparted training to about 1,000 prawn farmers, during the last three years.

(d) The future plan drawn up for expansion of prawn farming in Orissa *inter alia* includes:

- (i) bringing under prawn farming a minimum of 50 ha. area in each of the four districts per annum through the Brackish-water Fish Farmers Development Agencies; and
- (ii) taking up a Brackishwater Shrimp Culture Project in East Coast States including Orissa, with World Bank assistance. The project is in the appraisal stage; and
- (iii) provision of a package of financial support to all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers, technocrats and private entrepreneurs for establishing semi-intensive prawn farms, prawn seed hatcheries, prawn feed mills, upgradation of processing facilities and development of manpower resources for aquaculture.

Bauxite Deposits

5087. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate bauxite deposits discovered in various States, State-wise and particularly in Orissa and Bihar; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their proper exploitation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The reserves of bauxite in various States including Orissa and Bihar are given in the Statement-I.

(b) Mining of bauxite is presently being done to meet the requirements of aluminium, cement, refractory, abrasive and chemical industries and also for exports. For this purpose mining leases are granted by various State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 which provides for proper exploitation of minerals, including Bauxite.

The State-wise data relating to number of mines and production of bauxite during the period 1988-90 are given in statement - II.