

**Import of Fishing Boats**

3172. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :  
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the dangers posed to the Indian fishing industry by large scale import of foreign fishing boats;

(b) the reasons for the idle capacity of Indian fishing boats;

(c) whether deep-sea Indian fishing boats are also idle for over 8 months a year;

(d) the steps being taken to regulate and coordinate the import of large boats;

(e) whether complaints and representations have been made to Government on this subject; and

(f) whether Government propose to review the import necessity of fishing boats, which are harming our fishermen's interest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The present strength of the Indian fishing fleet and the scale of imports of foreign fishing boats are not of such a magnitude as to pose any danger to the Indian fishing industry.

(b) and (c). There are no reports of deep-sea fishing vessels lying idle for long periods in a year. However, a number of small mechanised boats operating in the coastal areas remain idle for varying periods in a year on account of bad weather, maintenance and seasonal nature of the fishery.

(d) The import of large boats is done through an Inter-ministerial Fishing Vessels Acquisition Committee which takes into consideration all relevant aspects.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

**Exodus of Indian workers from Gulf States**

3173. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS :  
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian Workers returned from Gulf States during the last one year; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) No record is available about the number of workers returning from Gulf States.

(b) The workers are generally returning on completion of the contract period.

**Restructuring of IRDP, NREP and RLEGP**

3174. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that restructuring of NREP, IRDP and RLEGP is under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

**Statement****1. Integrated Rural Development Programme :**

The IRD Programme has been evaluated by a number of organisations. The major shortcomings pointed out of these studies include low per capita investment resulting in low returns to the beneficiaries, uniformity in financial allocations and physical targets, wrong identification of some beneficiaries and absence of adequate forward and backward linkages.