

exploitation for their operation. Therefore, the Govt. of West Bengal have been requested to indicate if they would be interested in the exploitation of the deposit.

#### Revival of standing labour committee

1140. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the two-day meeting of the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in or about the month November, 1985 one major point that emerged at the meeting was that the Standing Labour Committee should be revived; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Standing Labour Committee has been constituted on 11.2.1986.

#### Representation against import of fishing boats

1141. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations against the import of large fishing boats, especially shrimp boats;

(b) whether Government are aware of the reduced catches of shrimp in the year 1985;

(c) whether further import of shrimp boats will destroy our fishing industry; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government are aware of marginal reduction of shrimp catches in the year 1985,

However, the extent of variation is of a minor nature attributable to natural fluctuations.

(c) and (d). Import of deep sea fishing vessels meant exclusively for shrimping are not encouraged. The present programme of import will not destroy our fishing industry.

#### Foreign fishing vessels

1142. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign chartered fishing boats using our waters at present;

(b) the names of companies employing these foreign 'boats';

(c) whether pre-shipment inspection is being done;

(d) if not, the steps being taken to ensure that proper pre-shipment inspection is done by customs;

(e) whether catches are being under-invoiced; and

(f) the details of safeguards initiated recently to check such under-invoicing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b): There are 33 foreign chartered fishing vessels operating in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone at present. The names of the companies employing these foreign boats are given in the statement placed below.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The catch stored in the chartered foreign fishing vessels is not covered under the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The catch on board the chartered vessel is assessed by the customs authorities and the designated officers appointed by the Government before these vessels depart to their home ports.