

glut. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is encouraging setting up of infrastructure including storage facilities for post-harvest processing.

[English]

Prawn Culture

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

(a) the number of existing prawn farms in the Orissa;

(b) whether the prawn yields have been declining in Orissa in the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the prawn production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) So far 8472.24 ha. of brackishwater area has been brought under prawn farming by four Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir. Prawn Production in Orissa has increased from 6284 tonnes in 1988-89 to 7713 tonnes in 1990-91.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) It is proposed to further develop 1340 ha. of brackishwater area for prawn production in Orissa under "Shrimp and Fish Culture Project" with World Bank assistance.

Review of Cooperative Act

668. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Co-operative Act for the Co-operative Group House Building Societies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Laying Of New Gas Pipelines

669. SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to lay new gas pipe lines in Maharashtra, Andhra And Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Pipelines are being laid in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh for supply of gas to committed consumers. Further an Inter-Ministerial Group had been constituted to examine the techno-economic feasibility of transporting natural gas from Western off-shore to Southern region. The report of the Group has been examined by the Government and the concept of a pipeline to the Southern region has been approved in principle.

Hike In Sales Tax

670. SHRIJEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has implemented the proposed sales tax hike;