

Commerce and various State Government for formulation of National Fisheries Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the group has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken proposed to take by the Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by which the group expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir The Government has constituted an Expert Group to formulate a National Fisheries Policy. various Ministries, Departments, State Government, Organisation and experts who are concerned with the diverse activities of the fisheries sector in the country were included as members. A Statement list of members and the terms of reference of the Expert Group is enclosed

(c) to (e) The group has completed its work and the draft policy is at the stage of finalisation.

#### STATEMENT

##### *Composition of the Expert Group*

i) Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (Incharge of Fisheries)	Chairman
ii) Joint Secretary (Fisheries, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	Member
iii) Representatives of ICAR	Member
iv) Representative of Ministry of Commerce	Member
v) Representative of Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Member
vi) Representative of Ministry of Environment & Forests	Member
vii) Representative of Department of Bio - Technology	Member
viii) Representative of Department of Revenue	Member
ix) Representative of Department of Insurance	Member

x) Representative from the States Kerala, A.P. & Orissa	Members
xi) Representatives of Association of Indian Fishery Industries	Member
xii) Shri J.V.H. Dixitulu, Editor, "Fishing " Chimes	Member
xiii) Representative of Fisheries Coop. Federation (FISHCOFFED)	Member
xiv) Fisheries Development Commissioner Convenor	Member

#### Terms of Reference

To formulate a comprehensive National Fisheries Policy by

- i) covering all aspects of production, marketing, processing and exports in fisheries sector;
- ii) coordinating the efforts of all concerned both in the public and private sector of Fisheries;
- iii) laying special stress on the issues relating to welfare of fishermen;
- iv) incorporating strategies for production of fish ensuring at the same time adequate inputs of science and technology;
- v) including adequate environmental safeguard so that the production growth could be made ideologically sustainable
- vi) giving special focus on the development of brackish water aquaculture; and
- vii) Providing adequate measures for combating fish disease.

#### Gauge Conversion

271. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Conversion of matter gauge line between Forbesganj and Araria is under consideration;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be undertaken; and

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred on this project.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.