

(a) the total area in hectares under cultivation of mint in the country;

(b) whether any research has been conducted to increase the output by developing new High Yielding Varieties; and

(c) the quantity of exportable oil extracted from mint and the total earnings in foreign exchange therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The present system of collection of agricultural statistics does not permit recording of area under mint and other minor crops separately.

(b) Yes, Sir. The new High Yielding Varieties of Mint developed include "M.S-1" by CSIR (CIMAP) Lucknow and "EC 41911" by ICAR (NBPGR, Delhi and HPKVV., Solan). Both these varieties produce higher oil content having higher menthol content.

(c) As per available information, the country is producing approximately 600 tonnes of Japanese mint oil and about 20 tonnes each of Peppermint and Bergamot mint oil. The present trade classification followed for recording of foreign trade statistics does not separately specify 'Mint oil'.

Protection of Fishing Interests of Visakhapatnam Based Fishermen

2420. SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that mechanised trawlers operating at Visakhapatnam are seriously damaging the interests of the catamarans and small fishermen;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of the catamarans and small fishermen; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint Coast Guards at Visakhapatnam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). In order to protect the interests of the small Fishermen, Government of Andhra Pradesh, based on the guidelines of Government of India, have passed an executive order according to which areas upto 10 kms. from the shore are reserved for non-mechanised boats and mechanised vessels are allowed to operate only beyond 10 kms. limit.

(c) Government have approved in principle the establishment of Coast Guards District in Visakhapatnam.

[Translation]

Declaration of Jhunjhunu as Backward District

2421. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to declare Jhunjhunu as backward district in the matter of industries since there is only one industry named Hindustan Copper Limited, Khetri; and

(b) whether water to the Hindustan Copper Limited, Khetri is supplied from the Chorah while there is already shortage of water at this place as a result of which this area is being ruined and if so, the scheme for the development of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan has already been identified as a Category 'C' industrially backward area eligible to the various backward incentives such as Central Investment Subsidy, Concessional Finance, Interest subsidy, Tax concessions, etc.

(b) Part of the water requirement of the Khetri Copper Complex of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) is drawn from various tubewells located in Chaonra-Jodhpura area, HCL has not received any report of shortage of water in this area.