

(e) the steps taken to develop the cultivation of palm trees on a large scale in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Approximately 1,095 Metric Tonnes of crude palm oil has been produced during 1985-86.

(d) As palm oil is only one of the edible oils consumed in the country, it is not possible to indicate the quantity required.

(e) Pilot projects on oil palm cultivation have been taken up in Kerala by Oil Palm India Limited and the Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Export of Marine Products

4218 SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is the leading exporter of prawns, shrimps and lobsters in the world;

(b) whether India lags behind in the mariculture and in raising hatcheries as compared to several other countries; and

(c) the targets fixed to replace natural resources with the sea-ranching of our marine crustaceans to prevent over-exploitation of the natural resources of crustaceans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir, India is the leading exporter of prawns and shrimps but not of lobsters.

(b) and (c). Indigenous technologies have been developed by the research institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for mariculture of prawns, edible oysters, pearl oysters, mussels, fin fish and sea weeds. However, these technologies are yet to be commercialised. As such, no targets have so far been set for sea ranching of marine crustaceans.

Disposal of Maharashtra Government Milk Powder

4220. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has refused to buy milk powder from Maharashtra Government ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Since the National Dairy Development Board is not buying milk powder, the question does not arise.

Fall in Shrimp Catch

4221. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the decline in shrimp catch during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and