

**Bay of Bengal Programme for  
Fisheries Development**

956. CHAUDHARY RAM PARKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the top fisheries officials was held in Bhubaneswar to review the working of the Bay of Bengal Programme for Fisheries Development (BOFP); and

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting finalised the 1988 work plan for Bay of Bengal Programme which includes following works in India:—

- continued support to introduction of beachlanding craft in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Seaweed farming, processing and marketing in Tamil Nadu.
- Assessment of Artemia culture potential.
- Support to a silvipisciculture project in West Bengal.
- Extension support through NGOs.
- Identification/preparation of project proposals in West Bengal.
- Multidisciplinary study-cum-support of Kattumaram fisheries.
- Feasibility study of prawn feed manufacturing.
- Temporary financial assistance to pipeline projects for non-

formal primary education in Orissa.

**Introduction of Heliskiing in Kashmir**

957. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce heliskiing in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will help to develop tourism in the country, if so; the details thereof; and

(d) the cost involved in introducing heliskiing in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Heliskiing has been introduced in the Kashmir valley in January, 1988. Government of Jammu and Kashmir have entered into an agreement with a world famous Swiss skier who will operate heliskiing in the State for a period of five years.

(c) The introduction of heliskiing has given world wide exposure to the possibility of winter sports in our country. As a result, winter tourism to our country particularly, Jammu and Kashmir is expected to receive a boost:

(d) As the promoter of the project is a private entrepreneur, no financial implications on the part of the Central or State Government are involved.

**Australian Assistance to Indian Fishery Industry**

958. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Government has