

Permitting monopoly business houses to enter Fishing Industries

7762. SHRI K.A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the considerations for allowing monopoly and big business Houses to enter the fishing industry;

(b) in view of the increased domination of the fishing industry by Monopoly and big houses, do Government propose to rescind earlier permits for their entry; and

(c) if not, how do Government propose to utilise the MRTP Commission to stop further penetration by such Houses into fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) There are three distinct sectors in the fishing industry:—

- (1) Traditional sector operating near the coast with non-mechanised boats.
- (2) The modernized sector operating small mechanised boats in the inshore waters.
- (3) Large mechanised vessels sector for off-shore and deep sea fishing.

Under the existing policy, the order of priority for import and charter of large vessels for exploitation of off-shore and deep sea is as follows:—

- (i) Public Sector undertakings.
- (ii) Public Sector undertakings.
- (iii) Small/Medium entrepreneurs.
- (iv) Large industrial houses (undertaking registered or registerable under Section 26 read with Section 20(a) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969)

Deep Sea fishing industry is a highly capital intensive and risk-prone sector. The basic aim is to maximise

the production from deep sea. Large Houses have been permitted to enter into this activity in the interest of exports.

(b) Out of 55 vessels on ownership basis currently in operation in the field of deep sea fishing, 24 vessels are being operated by 5 large industrial houses. Of the balance 31 vessels, 14 are being operated by the public sector undertakings and 17 by non-MRTP undertakings. None of the large industrial houses is dominant in the field of deep sea fishing.

(c) proposals from undertakings covered under the M.R.T.P. Act for substantial expansion of their activities or establishment of new undertaking including the field of fishing industry, under sections 21 and 22 of the Act, respectively, are examined in the light of the considerations laid down under Section 28 of the Act and the current policy on the subject. Such proposals are referred to the M.R.T.P. Commission for further enquiry and report where the Central Government is of the opinion that no order under Section 21 or 22 of the Act should be made without such further enquiry.

Findings of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices on Drug Prices

7763. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices on fixing of drug prices:

(b) what decisions have been taken by Government regarding this; and

(c) if so far no decision has been taken, when it is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The findings of the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices in regard to the fair prices of bulk drugs involves reduction in the prices of some drugs and increases on the prices of others in relation to the existing prices of bulk drugs.