

(c) whether any investigation has been made into the matter and the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of Thai, Korean, and Taiwan fishing vessels are regularly poaching in Indian waters without any action being taken against them?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):**

(a) Yes, Sir. But the number of crew is 35 as reported to us by the Government of Orissa.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The charter period of the detained vessel was found to have lapsed in August, 1980. An advice was given to have 50 per cent of the catch confiscated as fine. However, on a Writ application by the foreign collaborator, the High Court of Orissa has ordered that the catch should not be confiscated until the adjudication is made under the statute.

(d) No, Sir.

**Rs. 4.5 crore programme for fuel wood Plantation**

**2848. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rs. 4.5 crore programme of rural fuel wood plantation had been launched by the Central Government in order to provide for greater need of fuel wood in the country;

(b) whether any amount has been made available to the Government of West Bengal for expenditure towards the fuel wood plantation in the hill districts of that State; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):**

(a) An amount of Rs. 4.5 crores is provided in 1980-81 budget for fuel-wood plantation Scheme but the scheme is still to be launched.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

**Establishment of head post Office at Ichalkranji, Kolhapur and Gadhinlaj**

**2849. SHRI R. S. MANE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by what time the additional Head Post Office, already sanctioned for Ichalkranji will start;

(b) by what time work of the building of the additional Post Office already sanctioned will start;

(c) whether the demand of the additional Head Post Offices at Kolhapur and Gadhinlaj will be sanctioned; and

(d) if so, by what time?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). Additional Head Post Office at Kolhapur has since been sanctioned and has been functioning with effect from 1st October, 1980 as Kolhapur City Head Post Office. Additional Head Post Office at Gadhinlaj is not justified at present in accordance with the Departmental norms.

**New Authority to Protect Fishing Operations**

**2850. SHRI K. A. SWAMI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new authority is being contemplated to protect the

interests of actual fishing operation in view of the failure of the Marine Products export Development Authority to protect them;

(b) whether Government are aware of possible collusion by MPEDA and marine food processors to keep marine products prices down?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of any such collusion between the MPEDA and the marine food processors.

**Banning of Sale of Sugar in open market**

2851. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have under consideration a proposal for total banning of "Sugar" selling in the open market other than fair price shops till the situation improves?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** No, Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present. The existing policy is of partial control on sugar with dual pricing system under which 65 per cent of the total production of the factories is being procured as levy at controlled prices for distribution through the public distribution system at a uniform retail price and the remaining 35 per cent of the production is being allowed to be sold in the open market.

**S.T.D. Facilities from Delhi and Madras**

2852. **SHRI ERA ANBARASU:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to provide STD telephone facilities from Delhi to

Mahabalipuram in Chingleput District, Tamil Nadu and from Mahabalipuram to Madras;

(b) if so, when the same will be implemented; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider to provide such facilities to Mahabalipuram?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):** (a) No such proposal at present

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, at a later stage.

**Decline in sugar production and closure of Sugar Factories**

2853. **SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's current sugar production had fallen as against last two years, thereby reducing availability and bringing about sharp rise in prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was a fall in sugarcane supply to the factories as the cane was being diverted to gur and khandsari units;

(c) whether it is a fact that many sugar factories had closed down for want of sugarcane; and

(d) whether it was solely due to previous Government's wrong sugar policy?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** (a) The sugar production in the current 1980-81 season upto 22nd November is 2.55 lakh tonnes as against 1.77 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 season and 2.62 lakh tonnes in 1978-79 season. Thus, the sugar production in the current season so far is substantially higher than the production in 1979-80 and it is only slightly