

prawn culture. The Central Government has under consideration a proposal for pre-investment survey of potential sites for brackish water fish farms as well as for introduction of a package programme. The States under their Plan schemes have also earmarked allocations for assistance in the field of brackish water fish and prawn farming. Hence, all these schemes will form part of the VI Five Year Plan programme.

**Shortage of R.M.S. Staff, Berhampur (Orissa)**

3713. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA RATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the shortage of staff in the Railway Mail Services, Behrampur Branch of Orissa;

(b) if so, the efforts proposed to be made by his Ministry to fill up the large number of vacancies in that branch for the smooth functioning of mails; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and the same will be laid on the table of the House.

**Potential of Marine Fish**

3714. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA RATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of the annual harvestable potential of marine fish in our country per annum;

(b) the total production of marine fish out of deep sea fishing during 1979-80;

(c) the total quantity of the export of the marine fish out of the total production (from deep-sea fishing) during the above period;

(d) the total quantity of marine fish that had kept for domestic consumption;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to increase marine exports through the expansion of deep sea fishing during the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) It is estimated that India has an annual harvestable potential of 4.5 million tonnes of fish from her Exclusive Economic Zone.

(b) It is estimated that the production during 1979-80 from the deep sea was about 27,000 tonnes.

(c) The export of fish and other marine products from deep sea fishing during the year is estimated at 21,000 tonnes.

(d) Approximately 11.5 lakh tonnes of fish from marine sources was available for domestic human consumption during 1979-80.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Government are encouraging deep sea fishing through lending on soft loans terms, permission for charter, joint ventures, selective import of vessels and creating capacity for indigenous construction of fishing vessels and grant of subsidy for such vessels.

**Similipal as National Park in Mayurbhanj**

3715. SHRI NARAYAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for declaring Similipal in Mayurbhanj district as National Park;

(b) whether the Central Government have made any investigation in this regard; and

(c) whether the State Government has agreed to this proposal?

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

(a) Yes Sir. The State Government of Orissa has made a proposal to declare the core area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve as a National Park.

(b) Yes, Sir. After examination of the proposal of the State Government, the Government of India has conveyed its concurrence for declaring the core area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve as a National Park.

(c) Yes, Sir, The State Government is taking further action under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

#### Research in dryland farming

3716. **SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been made in the sphere of dryland farming;

(b) if so, the manner in which the production technology of dryland crops is propagated to the farmers in the dryland areas so that they could benefit therefrom; and

(c) the achievements of this technology in the form of cereal production?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. For increasing and stabilizing the crop production in the rainfed areas, research efforts have been in progress since early thirties to evolve suitable crop production technology. The progress in this sphere is summarised as follows:—

(i) Organised research efforts to improve crop production on the drylands were initiated as early as 1933 by the then Imperial Council

of Agricultural Research when it sponsored five dry farming research centres located of Rohtak, Simla pur, Bijapur, Raichur and Hagari, which operated for ten years, upto 1933—44.

(ii) The establishment of soil conservation research centres in the midfifties provided further needed information on factors of production, such as land use classes, rainfall patterns, runoff collection, fertilisers use, etc.

(iii) Keeping in view the problem of uncertainty of production from rainfed areas the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during the 4th Five Year Plan period implemented a multi-location coordinated project on Dryland Agriculture. At present this project is in operation at 23 centres (Statement I). Three centres are undertaking multidisciplinary research activities to achieve sustained crop production from rainfed areas.

This project is being suitably strengthened in 6th Five Year Plan period.

(iv) Besides the all India Coordination Project on Dryland Agriculture the State Departments of Agriculture, Central Research Institutes| Agricultural Universities are also undertaking research on dryland agriculture.

(b) The proven dryland technology is being propagated through the following programmes:—

(i) Pilot Projects,

(ii) Operational Research Projects,

(iii) National Demonstrations,

(iv) Extension Wings of various Agricultural Universities/Research Institutes|State Departments of Agriculture,

(v) Trainees Training Centres| Krishi Vigyan Kendras.