

(d) whether Government propose to ascertain the views of State Governments on those issues or not; and

(e) if so, how many States have agreed to setting up of such Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). A permanent Agricultural Prices Commission already exists to advise the Government on a continuing basis on the price policy of different agricultural commodities with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and the consumer. The Commission includes a member representing the interests of farmers. There is no proposal at present to set up any separate Farmers' Commission to advise the Government.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Chartering of Foreign Fishing Vessels

3764. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new policy of chartering of foreign fishing vessels which has been finalised by the Government is titled in favour of the larger houses and public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the main points of the scheme;

(c) whether this is the first time that Government is coming out with a clear policy of chartering of foreign fishing vessels;

(d) if so, the main features of the new policy; and

(e) whether Indian Shipping Companies have welcomed this measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The priority for consideration of char-

ter applications has been laid down as follows:

(i) Public Sector undertakings

(ii) Cooperatives of fishermen;

(iii) Small and Medium scale entrepreneurs and lastly

(iv) larger houses.

(c) Since the first charter was permitted, Government have been progressively refining the charter condition.

(d) The main features of the Charter Policy announced in January 1981 are:—

(i) The area of operation shall be beyond territorial water (12 nautical miles);

(ii) Charterer will be required to purchase the prescribed number of vessels within the stipulated period.

(iii) charters will be initially for a period of 3 years, renewable up to a maximum of 2 more years.

(iv) The maximum number of vessels for any one applicant for one type of fishing will be limited to five.

(v) At least 20 per cent of the crew shall be Indian, including understudies to foreign skipper, engineer etc. In addition an Indian scientist will be posted on board the vessels.

(e) We have not received any reaction from Indian Shipping Companies.

Separate Fishing Harbour Authority

3765. SHRI K. A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the lack of attention given to the administration of fishery harbours; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up a separate fishing harbour authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND