

soybean in the country in various forms :—

1. Financial assistance has been made available to the G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar to set up a Pilot Plant for soya processing which would work as the nucleus for the establishment of food technology development.

2. A plan scheme, formulated basically with the objective of setting up of adequate processing facilities with an integrated approach consistent with the production programme of soybean has been included in the Sixth Plan. The proposed items of manufacture include in addition to refined soyabean oil for direct consumption, edible soya flour, textured soya proteins, soya milk etc.

3. A high Level Inter-Ministerial Soyabean Coordination Committee has been constituted to look into the various aspects of setting up of processing facilities that will take care of all the product possibilities namely refined soybean oil, soya meal and further processing of soya meal to soya foods.

4. Soybean industry has been given the status of Appendix I Industry so as to enable participation of large houses such as MRITP concern.

Mechanization of country Fishing Craft

4131. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of country fishing craft which have so far been mechanised ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that programmes for mechanising country fishing craft were included in the First and Second Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) The country fishing crafts fall broadly under the following categories :

(i) Catamarans of the Coromandal coast ;

(ii) Dugout canoes ;

(iii) Plank built boats ;

(iv) Larger size country boats.

The mechanization of canoes and catamarans has been done with out-board motors on an experimental basis. The mechanisation of plank built boats has been done with in-board and out-board engines mostly in Gujarat and Maharashtra States. A few hundred boats in these areas have been mechanised.

The total number of country crafts in the maritime States is estimated at 1.35 lakhs (provisional) according to livestock Census of 1977. The total number of mechanised vessels is estimated at 16,100. However, figures relating to number of country crafts mechanised are not separately available.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Ban on Illegal Tree Falling

4132. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal tree falling is rampant in the country ;

(b) whether is it proposed to ban totally the falling of trees in the country without prior permission from the authorities ; and

(c) the details thereof ?