

Fleet of Fishing Vessels

3589. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present fleet of fishing vessels in the country and the details of their deployment;

(b) whether Government are considering to raise its strength; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the scheme and the estimated expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The number of deep sea commercial fishing vessels in the country is 57. These are operating mostly on East Coast of India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For the VI Five Year Plan, it is envisaged to raise the number of deep sea fishing vessels to 350. A plan provision of Rs. 50 crores has been made for grant of soft loans through Shipping Development Fund Committee for acquisition of various types of fishing vessels.

Compensation of Payment to Dairy Owners whose cattle died on Account of Rinderpest Disease in Delhi

3590. SHRI DAULATINSHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any compensation has been paid to small dairy owners in Delhi whose cattle have died recently due to wide spread of rinderpest disease; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

Change in Procurement Price Policy of Paddy

3591. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation recently from the All India Food Grain Dealers Association requesting that the Government to change its rice procurement policy so as to bring down the open market price;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to bring down the open market price of rice;

(d) what is the present rice procurement policy of the Government; and

(e) whether Government have revised the procurement quota of rice for various States and if so, what are the details in this regard and to what extent it has been achieved?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government arranges adequate supply of foodgrains from the Central Pool for issue through public distribution system so as to keep a check on open market price of foodgrains.

(d) Paddy is procured directly from the farmers on the basis of voluntary offers as a price support measure, while rice is procured from Rice millers/traders through a compulsory levy imposed by certain State Governments. Paddy procured on the price support scheme is got milled into rice by Rice Millers on payment of milling charges.

(e) No procurement quota of rice has been fixed for various States.