

vides food assistance for member countries for developmental programmes, nutritional and feeding programmes and for meeting emergencies—natural or man-made.

Excise Duty Relief to Fishing Vessels

5996. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major change in the existing policy of excise duty has helped the fishing vessels also ;

(b) if so, whether under the comprehensive proposal prepared by his Ministry, excise relief is likely to be extended to the small mechanised vessels of less than 13.7 metres in length ;

(c) if so, the extent to which these excise relief will be beneficial to the small fishing vessels ; and

(d) the other concessions being given to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) There has been no major change in the scheme of exemption of excise duty on HSD used by fishing vessels in the last three years.

(b) The existing relief on excise duty on H.S.D. to the fishing vessels of not less than 13.7 metres in length and 150 BHP is being maintained at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Financial assistance is provided by some States/Union Territories and banks to

the fishermen to own their own boats and gear.

National Seeds Corporation Programme for Increased Production

5997. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) has launched a massive programme for increased production, processing and distribution of certified seeds of cereals, oilseeds etc. ;

(b) whether at present the Corporation is handling as many as 230 varieties of 70 crops ;

(c) if so, whether several measures have been taken to improve the quality of seeds besides creating facilities for high standard storage and distribution to avoid incidence of pests and diseases ;

(d) if so, the details of the massive programme that is likely to be taken up during 1984 ; and

(e) the extent to which the programme initiated in 1983 has been successful ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 244 varieties of 70 crops are being handled at present by the National Seeds Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are indicated below :

(Production in lakh Qtls.)

Crop	1982-83 (Actual Achievement)	1983-84 (Estimated)	1984-85 (Target)
Cereals	4.90	7.75	10.40
Oilseeds	0.17	0.30	0.57
Others	0.63	1.15	1.59
Total	5.70	9.20	12.56

(e) the target for 1983-84 was 10.00 lakh quintals, against which achievement is likely to be 9.20 lakh quintals.

Marine Fishing in West Bengal

5998. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that marine fishing in West Bengal could not record any significant progress for want of harbour facilities for the fishing boats ;

(b) what Government have so far done in regard to development of fisheries in the State ;

(c) whether Government of West Bengal have been awaiting approval of the Fraser-gunge Fishing Harbour Project ; and

(d) if so, when it will get approval ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Fish production from the Marine sector in West Bengal for the last 3 years is given below :

1981	—	28,000 tonnes
1982	—	31,000 „
1983 (Target)	—	33,000 „

However, lack of adequate landing and berthing facilities in Upper East Coast of India including West Bengal has been a constraint for the growth of mechanised fishing fleet.

(b) A major fishing harbour at Roychowk and a landing jetty at Namkhana sanctioned by Govt. of India have become operational. A minor fishing harbour at Digha in Midnapore district is under construction. Administrative approval for four small landing centres at Junput, Jalda, New Jalda and Kharpai has recently been issued.

Apart from various schemes under State

Plan for development of fishing in West Bengal, the following important Centrally Sponsored Schemes are also in operation :

- (i) Inland Fishery Project under which Fish Farmers' Development Agencies have been set up,
- (ii) National Fish Seed Development Programme,
- (iii) Inland Fishery Statistics Programme
- (iv) Subsidy on Group Accident Insurance of active fishermen.
- (v) Techno-Socio-Economic Survey of Fishermen
- (vi) Brackish Water Development programme.

(c) and (d). The Project proposal has been circulated to the Appraisal Agencies before taking investment decision.

Shortage of Surgical Requisites for Veterinary Units in West Bengal

5999. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) in view of price escalation and therefore shortage of medicines and surgical requisites for different veterinary units of West Bengal, whether Union Government have any proposal for subsidising these items for proper health care of livestock population of all the State Veterinary units, aid centres, dispensaries, mobile clinics etc. ; and

(b) if so, when this will be given effect to ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). The purchase and supply of veterinary medicines and surgical requisites for veterinary units in West Bengal is arranged by the State Government. Union Government is providing Central assistance for a number of schemes in the field of Animal Health in West Bengal. However, there is no pro-