

With the increase in population and their income, demand for fish been rising.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the important steps taken to increase fish production with special reference to West Bengal are as follow :

- (i) Mechanisation of fishing craft through loans/subsidies.
- (ii) Augmentation of fisheries Survey and assistance for construction of fishing harbours at Major and Minor Ports and providing landing and berthing facilities at smaller fishing centres.
- (iii) Implementation of Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981.
- (iv) Operation of an Inland Fisheries Project of fish culture in tanks and ponds with World Bank assistance in West Bengal during the Sixth Five Year Plan.
- (v) Establishment of Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDAs) in 14 districts of West Bengal.
- (vi) Establishment of Fish Seed Development Corporation in West Bengal.
- (vii) Scheme on Brackishwater Fish/Prawn farming in Sunderbans with area development approach.
- (viii) Inclusion of Fisheries Component in the Sunderbans Development Project with assistance from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- (ix) Raising the productivity of ponds and tanks by introducing composite fish culture.

These steps are expected to increase production and availability of fish at reasonable price.

Procurement Price of Jute

1121. SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI
GAMIT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agricultural Prices Commission has recommended an increase of Rs. 10 a quintal in the statutory minimum support price for raw jute (W-5 variety) for the next season (1984-85) against the present price of Rs. 185 a quintal ;

(b) whether Centre has since taken any decision on APC's recommendations on the raw jute floor price, as the new season is starting now ; and

(c) if so, what and if not, the reasons for the delay ?

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

(b) and (c) The Government have accepted the recommendations made by the Agricultural Prices Commission and fixed the statutory minimum price of W-5 grade of raw jute in Assam at Rs. 195 per quintal for the 1984-85 season. The prices of other varieties of raw jute will be fixed by the Jute Commissioner in the light of relevant market differentials.

News-Items "Blackmail Bid"

1122. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN
DEV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noted the news item in "Patriot" dated 4 July, 1984 captioned "Blackmail Bid" which pertains to the current policies of his Ministry with reference to fishing ;

(b) the steps being taken to ensure that big business does not scuttle the efforts of Government to save our marine resources ;

(c) whether efforts by the foreign chartering lobby are on to change the policy in their favour ;

(d) the reasons for the inaction against violations of this policy ; and

(e) the details of measures being taken to ensure that further damage by foreign charter boats is curtailed ?

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

(b) and (c) Government have received representations from a few Indian chartering companies as well as the Association of India Fishery Industry against the notification of the Government that the chartered fishing vessels shall fish beyond the territorial waters or beyond depths of 40 fathoms whichever is farther. Representations are decided on merits of the case.

(d) There is no inaction against the violation of the charter permits.

(e) The following measures are already in existence to safeguard against any damage to the marine resources :

(i) Effective measures against poaching under the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act., 1981.

(ii) Chartered vessels are not allowed to do shrimping.

(iii) Chartered Vessels can operate only beyond the territorial waters or beyond depths of the 40 fathoms whichever is farther.

(iv) Charterers have been asked to use fishing nets of appropriate size. Fishing gears & types are mentioned in the charter permits.

Shortage of Fertilizers

1123. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether acute shortage of fertilizers was felt in the current sowing season and large imports of fertilizers, were made ;

(b) whether the shortage of fertilizers has led to a large scale adulteration in certain States ;

(c) whether from Pune a report has come that spurious fertilizers have made their appearance ;

(d) if so, whether State Governments have been asked to check adulteration in fertilizers ;

(e) the States where shortage of fertilizers has been felt ;

(f) steps Union Government proposes to take to supply fertilizers to farmers in time ; and

(g) the total fertilizers supplied to each growing State during the months to June and July, 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) The overall availability of fertilizers has been satisfactory for meeting the requirements of the States for the