

Development Corporation because the Pant Nagar University and the National Seeds Corporation are shareholders in the Tarai Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, the steps his Ministry propose to take in this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The National Seeds Corporation has been notified as the Seed Certification Agency under the Seeds Act by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. As such the Corporation has been certifying wheat seeds produced by the tarai Development Corporation during Rabi 1970-71 also. The National Seed Corporation certifies only such seeds as conform to the minimum seed certification standards, prescribed by the Central Seeds Committee, in respect of germination, moisture, freedom from seed-borne diseases, and genetic and physical purity.

(b) Does not arise.

Difficulties In Implementation of Crash Plan for Removing Rural Unemployment

3603. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government's Rs. 500 million programme against rural unemployment had run in to difficulties and had only a poor start;

(b) if so, the reasons for this; and

(c) the steps the centre now proposes to take the successful implementation of this Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Fishing Operations by Foreign Vessels off West Coast of Gujarat

3604. SHRI JADEJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large-scale fishing operations off the Indian West Coast of Gujarat State by the foreign vessels;

(b) whether it is because of the non-existence of any Central Fishing Project or the State Fishing Project in that area;

(c) whether being a non-meat eating State Gujarat has never taken any initiative for the development of fishing on its coast; and

(d) whether Central Government propose to start a project on the Indian West Coast of Gujarat, if so, the main feature of the project and estimated cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) The existing limit of the exclusive fishing zone, which is coterminous with the territorial sea, is 12 miles from the coast line. Foreign vessels do not fish within this zone. Government is aware that foreign vessels conduct fishing operations on the high seas in the Indian Ocean. No report indicating special activity by foreign fishing vessels off the West Coast of Gujarat has been received.

(b) and (c). Gujarat has a well developed fishing industry. In the Fourth Five year plan of Gujarat, provision of Rs. 350 lakhs has been made for further development of fisheries. More than 20% of the mechanised fishing boats introduced in the country are operating from the Gujarat Coast. These boats operate in the coastal belt, but largest vessels with a wider range of operation are being gradually introduced.