

which has hitherto been less adequately explored.

The number of powered boats operating on the West Coast is much larger than those operating on the East Coast as indicated in reply to part (b) of the Question. Mechanised fishing is however making headway on the East Coast. The provision for mechanization of fishing craft made in the Fourth Five Year Plans of East Coast States is Rs. 9 crores against the provision of Rs. 10 crores on the West Coast.

For the training of operatives of deep sea fishing vessels the Central Government has established one unit on the West Coast (at Cochin) and on the East Coast (at Madras).

Engagement of Private Consultants Firm for preparing Techno-economic Feasibility Reports for Steel Plants

7149. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have engaged any private Consultants Firm for preparation of Techno-economic Feasibility Reports for Steel Plants in regard to plants already constructed or plants to be constructed in the future ;

(b) if so, the reasons for engaging a private Consultants Firm and the works entrusted to it ; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the contracts in respect of these matters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assignments given recently to M/s Dastur & Co. (P) Ltd., a Consultancy Firm in the Private Sector, are for the preparation of two Techno-economic Feasibility Reports, one for a 2 million tonnes integrated steel plant at Visakhapatnam, and the other for a 250,000 tonne special steels plant at Salem. Earlier, in 1964, the same firm had prepared for Government, a Preliminary Project Report for a steel plant in the Goa-Hospital region. The main reason for awarding work to this consultancy firm was to make use of the expertise available in the country, to the extent possible, for such assignments.

(c) M/s M. N. Dastur & Co., Pvt. Limited have been requested to prepare the Techno-economic feasibility reports on the Salem and Visakhapatnam Projects, according to the guidelines in the publication issued by the Planning Commission on "Feasibility Studies for Public Sector Projects". For the report on the Salem Project, they have been allowed six months (fee Rs. 3 lakhs) and for the report on the Visakhapatnam Project, nine months (fee Rs. 5 lakhs). For the Preliminary Report for a Steel Plant in the Goa-Hospet Region they were paid Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

Defects in construction of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

7150. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enquiry has been conducted with regard to the defects in the construction of the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur ;

(b) if so, the finding thereof ; and

(c) the action taken against such responsible for this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c). A small Official Group had looked into certain deficiencies brought to Government's notice by the Chairman, Hindustan Steel Limited. Following the report of this Group, Hindustan Steel Limited are taking necessary remedial measures in consultation with the Equipment Suppliers and their own experts.

Preparation of Project Report for Bokaro Steel Plant by Private Consultant Firm

7151. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether both the USSR and the United States rejected a Draft Project Report for the Bokaro Steel Plant, prepared by a private Consultant Firm ; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the Consultant firm for submitting such a report which caused loss to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir. The question of U. S. A. rejecting the Detailed Project Report prepared by a private Consultant Firm, M/s Dastur & Co., did not arise, as the negotiations with the U. S. Government for aid in the construction of the Bokaro Steel Plant, did not materialise. In rewriting the Detailed Project Report, the U. S. S. R. organisations took full advantage of the work already put in by M/s Dastur & Co. on their project report.

(b) Does not arise.

Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories in Andhra Pradesh

7152. SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Andhra Pradesh tested by the Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories;

(b) the number of laboratories working in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) The van has provided soil testing facilities to the cultivators in the areas of Rajendra Nagar, Chevella, Ibrahimpatnam and Tandur Community Development Blocks in the district of Hyderabad and the blocks of Karimnagar and Metpalli in Karimnagar district. Presently, the van is engaged in testing samples from the Multiple Cropping Demonstration sites in Kurnool and Nandikotkur block areas of Kurnool district.

(b) One Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory van is working in the State of Andhra Pradesh at Present.

(c) So far 1706 Soil Samples and 33 irrigation water Samples have been tested and recommendations furnished to the cultivators. 1150 cultivators have benefited by this service.

Federation of Farming Societies in Andhra Pradesh

7153. SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has formed

at State level federation of Farming Societies;

(b) if so, the number of Cooperative Farming Societies joined as members of the Federation; and

(c) how many are yet to join and the reasons for their delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Exploratory survey for location of fishing ground in Eastern Coast

7154. SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Deep-Sea Fishing Organisation has conducted any exploratory surveys for location of fishing ground in the Eastern Coast of the Country;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the type and variety of fish available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Exploratory surveys covering an area of 11,400 square miles of the sea-bed have been made for location of fishing grounds in the East Coast of India mainly by trawling on the bottom grounds. The bases of operation have been Visakhapatnam and Tuticorin.

(b) Areas off Tuticorin, Cuddalore and Ennore (Tamil Nadu), Kakinada and Kalinapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Puri and Chandbali (Orissa) and certain areas near Hooghly river mouth have been found to be fairly rich grounds for bottom dwelling species of fish. The catch per hour, which is an index of the potential of fish stocks, has varied between 100 kg. to 1050 kgs. in these areas.

(c) The percentage composition of catch in the northern region indicates that prawns were on an average 2.22% cat fishes 20.83%, rays 5.28%, sharks and skates 7.78%, miscellaneous small fishes 56.39% and miscellaneous large fishes 7.50%. In the Southern region prawns account for 11.22% of the catch, sciaenids 23.63% silver bollies 16.24%, polynemids 3.11%, perches 4.57%,