

Steps to check Wasteful Fishing

4322. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State :

(a) whether by using wrong kind of nets, considerable quantities of immature fish are loaded to the detriment of fishing in coming seasons ; and

(b) the steps proposed to check this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Varied types of gear, used both for inland and marine fishing, capture appreciable quantities of small sized fish in the process of fishing. Some of the small sized fish so caught are juveniles of species which would in the normal course have been available later in adult size.

(b) Regulation of mesh or prohibition of fishing is resorted to in case of apprehension of depletion of stocks. Many of the State Governments and Union Territories have enacted legislation empowering them to regulate mesh of nets and to prohibit fishing. Mesh size of nets permitted to be used is prescribed in detailed regulations covering specific areas. Destructive methods of fishing for example, fishing with explosives is prohibited. Some States have declared a closed season for fishing in the rivers and reservoirs during the breeding season.

Arrangement for despatch of Information about Fish Shoals, Tempest etc. to Fishing Vessels out in the Sea

4323. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any arrangement to pass on information about huge fish shoals to vessels already out in the sea to help them reach such shoals in time ; and

(b) whether Government have any arrangement to pass on meteorological data, especially relating to tempests, gales and typhoons, to fishing boats out in the Sea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI

SHER SINGH) : (a) The Central Deep Sea Fishing Organisation is making arrangements to relay information to the commercial fleet regarding grounds where large stocks of fish are located by exploratory vessels. A system of dissemination of information from ship to ship direct and also from ship to shore is being worked out. The present arrangement is to circulate information on the state of fishing grounds through periodical brochures.

(b) Coastal Radio Stations of A.I.R. at Kandla, Bombay, Ratnagiri on the West Coast and at Tuticorin, Madras, Vizag and Calcutta on the East Coast broadcast daily information on the weather and sea conditions. Post and Telegraphs Radio Stations broadcast this information six times every day in uncertain weather.

Exploitation of Sea-Weeds

4324. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of work, if any, done or being carried on in respect of exploitation of sea-weeds ;

(b) whether Government have made any detailed survey of the availability of useful sea weeds in Indian waters ; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). Surveys on availability of certain varieties of economic sea-weeds have been conducted by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute off the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. The Government of Orissa have also surveyed the availability of agar-weed in the Chilka Lake. The surveys have brought out occurrence of the agar-weed in appreciable quantities in the Chilka Lake and off certain parts of Madras coast and Gujarat. Alginophytes were also located in goods quantities off the Mandapam area in Madras and Okha in Gujarat.

Sample surveys made during 1965 and 1966 on the Palk Bay side of the coastline near Mandapam in a 3.58 sq. km. area gave