

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

the following results :

Sea-weed	Fresh weight in metric tons	
Agarophytes	1965	1966
Agarophytes	233.15	47.92
Alginophytes	161.83	173.43
Edible algae	188.84	245.91
Other algae	457.87	398.51
Total	1041.69	865.77

In the Surveys carried out on the Gujarat Coast 60 mt tons of fresh Sargassum have been estimated in 0015 sq. km. area of the Adatra reef near Okha. The presence of 18,765.5 mt. tons of fresh sea-weeds in the Gulf of Kutch in an area of 10 65 sq km. has been revealed by recent surveys. It is estimated that about 4,000 mt. tons of fresh Sargassum weed can be harvested annually from the Gulf of Kutch.

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has evolved techniques for manufacture of agar-agar, Alginic acid, and Alginates of Sodium and Calcium.

Research in sea-weeds is also being carried out by the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has under active consideration a scheme for a comprehensive survey by the two Institutes of the sea-weed resources off the Tamil Nadu Coast. The main objective of this survey is to estimate the standing crop of agar and algin yielding sea-weeds and other sea-weeds of economic importance and for classifying the productive areas in relation to the density of the weed.

Some private firms in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have taken up commercial manufacture of agar-agar and alginic acid. Small quantities of agarophytes are also exported.

Crash Programme for Rural Employment in west Bengal

4325. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special scheme has been prepared under crash programme for the removal of rural unemployment in West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal have so far forwarded proposals under the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment in respect of eight districts in the State. The proposals which include work projects for soil conservation, minor irrigation, roads, etc. with a cost of Rs. 62.70 lakhs have been removed by the Central Government.

The State Government have also formulated a self-employment scheme under which a mechanic and a fitter are to be employed in the Tubewells Divisions for carrying out repairs. Expenditure on this staff is proposed to be met out of the funds for the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment. It is contemplated that the staff will learn the job as they work and by the time the crash programme comes to an end they will have their skills to fall back upon for earning a living through self-employment. This scheme is under consideration of the Central Government.

Nationalisation of Wheat Trade

4326. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a recent decision of the Punjab Government to go in for complete nationalisation of wheat trade in the State ;

(b) If so, the details of that decision and his reaction to the same ;

(c) whether Government are considering to ask the State Governments to take steps for nationalisation of the wholesale Trade in foodgrains ; and