

through the concerned State Governments. During the last three years, the Corporation has not given any financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of modern rice mills through the Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Complaints of Corruption Against Regional Provident Fund Commissioners.

7908. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether several complaints were received by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner against various Regional Commissioners ;

(b) if so, whether enquiries were conducted about the charges alleged ; and

(c) the follow-up action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (c). The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and is not the direct concern of the Government of India. The Government have no information regarding complaints against Regional Provident Fund Commissioners, received by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner.

Criticism Regarding Inadequate Expansion of Fishing Industry

7909. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the criticism from various sources that enough is not being done in the country to expand fishing industry ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The scope for fisheries development, the inadequate pro-

gress in various sectors of the industry and the need for acceleration of the pace of work in this sphere have been stressed by Members of Parliament, State Governments and the industry.

(b) Government is fully seized of the position both with regard to the potential for development of fisheries in the country and the problems requiring urgent attention. Carefully formulated programmes covering the entire spectrum of activities relating to the development of the fishing industry have been taken up, and these are being constantly reviewed with a view to taking suitable action wherever necessary. The following summarised statement indicates the position :—

Funds : A frequent complaint has been that the funds allocated for fisheries development are inadequate. The provision for fisheries in successive five-year Plans has, however, been progressively increased as follows :

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| First Plan | Rs. 5.13 crores. |
| Second plan | Rs. 12.26 crores. |
| Third Plan | Rs. 28.58 crores. |
| Fourth Plan | Rs. 83.57 crores. |

In addition, institutional finance is becoming increasingly available for fisheries projects. Some projects have already received substantial loans from the Agriculture Refinance Corporation, and several State Governments are formulating projects on similar lines. The question of amending the Reserve Bank of India Act and the Agriculture Refinance Corporation Act to facilitate the flow of institutional finance to fisheries on par with Agriculture has also been taken up.

Coastal Fishing : In the first three Plans, the accent was on mechanisation of coastal fishing. By the beginning of the Fourth Plan, 7,698 mechanised boats had been introduced. The Fourth Plan envisages introduction of 5,500 additional mechanised boats. Largely, as a result of this programme, it has been possible to raise the production of marine fish from 6.84 lakh tonnes in 1961 to 10.75 lakh tonnes in 1970. The value of the exports of marine products has also risen from Rs. 2.9 crores in 1961 to Rs. 35.54 crores in 1970. The problems connected with the mechanisation programme—evolution of improved designs of