

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 ANNASAHAB 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

boats and gear, improvement of the quality of engines, alternatives to wood for construction of hulls etc.—are receiving continuing attention by research institutions and technical Committees. A string of harbours is being provided around the coast to facilitate efficient operation of mechanised vessels and to serve as focal points for ancillary industries. The harbour facilities are being provided under a Centrally sponsored Scheme for which a provision of Rs. 6 crores has been made in the Fourth Plan.

Deep Sea Fishing : It has been urged in several quarters that more attention should be paid to Deep Sea Fishing, not only because of the rich potential of deep water resources, but also because coastal resources in some areas are already being exploited to the maximum extent consistent with the available resources in these areas. Particular concern has been expressed regarding the problem of acquiring suitable vessels and expertise for Deep Sea Fishing, and the absence of harbour facilities.

While the programme of mechanisation of the coastal fishing industry is being continued in the Fourth Plan, increased attention is being given to the development of deep sea fishing. A provision of Rs. 19.5 crores (including Rs. 6 crores for fishing harbours at minor ports) has been made in the Fourth Plan for provision of harbours which will facilitate efficient operation not only of the mechanised boats but also of larger deep sea fishing vessels. Large harbours have already been sanctioned at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Cochin, Tuticorin and Vizhinjam. Smaller harbours have been sanctioned at 8 sites. The requirements of vessels for deep sea fishing are being met by a suitable balancing of imports against indigenous construction. While import of a limited number of vessels by the industry has been permitted, the indigenous ship building industry has been encouraged to develop expertise in construction of deep sea fishing vessels. A scheme of subsidy for indigenously constructed deep sea steel fishing vessels has been introduced. Deep Sea Fishing has also been listed among the industries in which foreign collaboration is admissible, and the terms and conditions of foreign collaboration in deep sea fishing projects are being formulated. The Central Government is also expanding the organisations for survey of marine resources

and training of personnel of deep sea fishing vessels. The Central Deep Sea Fishing Organisation which carries out exploration of marine resources is being strengthened by the addition of 23 vessels. Eight new bases for exploratory surveys are being established. The Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives has its headquarters at Cochin and a Unit at Madras. Operatives of deep sea fishing vessels are trained at this Institute.

Inland Fisheries : In the Inland Sector also, several schemes for production of fish seed by collection and induced breeding, establishment of nurseries, and demonstration fish farms, development of reservoirs etc. have been taken up. Out of the total provisions of Rs. 83.31 crores for fisheries development in the Fourth Plan, an amount of Rs. 14.33 crores has been earmarked for inland fisheries. The inland fish production has risen from 2.77 lakh tonnes in 1961 to 6.71 lakh tonnes in 1970.

Research : The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute and the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology are conducting programmes of research on a variety of subjects having a bearing on fisheries development. The Marine Research Institute conducts research on the various species of fish, the distribution pattern of fish stocks and environmental factors. The Inland Fisheries Institute conducts research on the breeding of fish and improved techniques of culture. The Institute of Technology is working on improvements in fishing craft and gear and methods of fish handling and processing.

High Price of Indian Fertiliser

7910. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether in spite of cheap labour, the prices of fertilisers in India are highest in the World;

(b) If so, the reasons thereof;

(c) Whether Government propose to bring down the price level of fertiliser to subsidise it; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?