

(c) the steps under contemplation to improve their functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS : (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Exploitation of Coastal Lines for Food Development

723. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that our coastal line has not been properly exploited for the development of food, as has been done in Japan and other countries surrounded by seas ;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal under contemplation ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage the development of fishery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Government are aware of the fishery resources of the seas around India and several measures are being taken to step up exploitation of these resources.

(b) and (c). The outlay on the development fisheries has been considerably increased in successive Five Year Plans. The outlay on fisheries under the Third Plan was Rs. 28 crores. A provision of Rs. 83.57 has been tentatively earmarked for development of fisheries in the Fourth Plan. Attention is being concentrated on the following main schemes :

(i) *Provision of fishing harbours at major and minor ports.*

An amount of Rs. 19.6 crores has been earmarked for this programme in Fourth Plan. Several small fishing harbours have been completed, others are under construction, and work has been commenced on some large fishing harbours at major ports.

(ii) *Mechanisation of small fishing craft.*

Under a programme of mechanisation of small fishing boats, about 7500 mechanised boats have been introduced. It is proposed to introduce 5500 boats in the Fourth Plan period. Largely as a result of introduction of these boats the shrimp export trade has developed rapidly. The value of exports of fish and fish products mainly of shrimp in 1965-66 was Rs. 7.06 crores. The value of these exports in 1968-69 was Rs. 24.70 crores.

(iii) *Expansion of offshore fishing with larger vessels.*

300 vessels are proposed to introduce during the Fourth Plan. 40 trawlers are under construction in various shipyards in the country and a scheme for import of 30 vessels and construction of a further number of 15 vessels in the country is being implemented. Facilities are also being provided to encourage establishments of the fishing industry in the private and cooperative sectors.

(iv) *Training of personnel.*

Personnel for operation of small mechanised boats are being trained in training centres set up in the maritime States. The Central Government have set up two units for training of operatives of larger fishing vessels.

(v) *Survey of resources.*

The Central Deep Sea Fishing Organisation is being equipped with 24 modern exploratory vessels. These vessels will locate new fishing grounds and determine the extent of resources so as to provide a base for the expansion of the fishing industry.

Telephone Exchanges in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh

724. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telephone Exchanges in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh where there are public call offices ; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase their number ?