

**MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):**

(a) to (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government for constituting a separate corporation for providing loan to the fruit and vegetable producers in the country. The Co-operative Banks, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks provide short term production loan for raising such crops in the country. In addition to these rural financial institutions, State Land Development Banks/Primary Land Development Banks also provide medium and long term loans for raising fruits and vegetables particularly for development of orchards and Horticultural units in various parts of the country. Besides, National Horticulture Board is also providing soft loan for creating marketing infrastructure support and production on improved technologies.

**C.I.F.T.**

1072. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of studies/new projects undertaken by Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, Calicut and Kochin, in Kerala during 1997 and 1998;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal for the expansion/development/modernisation of CIFT at Calicut and Cochin; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made herefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) is a subordinate office of Fisheries Division of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, having Headquarters at Cochin and units at Madras and Vishakhapatnam. It is the only National Institute in India for training manpower for ocean going fishing vessels. This Institute has not undertaken any studies/new projects in Kerala during 1997 or 1998. However, details of studies/new projects undertaken by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), a premier research institute for Fisheries under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research having Headquarters at Cochin and a research centre at Calicut, are given below:

- Development of resource specific trawl gear system and assessment of commercial trawling practices.

- Processing and product development from finfish and shell fish species.
- Development of viable technologies for the utilisation of crustacean wastes, fishery by products and sea weeds.
- Quality assurance and management in seafoods.
- Appropriate packaging for fish and fishery products.
- Production and Evaluation of biopolymers and biochemicals from aquatic organisms.
- Biochemical, nutritional and functional properties of fish constituents.
- Harvest and Post-harvest Technology Transfer and evaluation in fisheries.
- Nutrients, toxicants, pollutants and growth promoters in aquaculture systems and processed marine products.

(b) Yes, Sir. it is proposed to expand and modernise the CIFT Hqrs. at Cochin and its Calicut Research Centre during the IX Plan.

(c) During the IX Plan a tentative allocation of Rs. 21 crores has been made to CIFT in comparison to the VIII Plan allocation of Rs. 6.50 crores. During the current plan period, it is proposed to import a modern research vessel for vessel based fisheries programmes at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores. In addition to the plan allocation, a one time catch up grant to the extent of Rs. 5 crores has also been proposed for CIFT for renovation of the existing infrastructure and modernization of the laboratories for its all research centres, including Calicut. The Calicut Centre of the CIFT is being strengthened as an extension unit to undertake technology transfer programmes through demonstration, training and extension education activities.

**Plan Sanctioned for J&K**

1073. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned for J&K for the year 1998-99 and the funds released during the current financial year;