

Some explosive material has also been recovered/seized.

Similar information for March 1990, is awaited from the Government of Punjab.

(b) It is not possible to make any exact assessment of the extent of arms and ammunitions available with them.

(c) The security agencies are organising regular raids at the suspected hide-outs of the terrorists/extremists and their associates for the purpose.

Floating Fish Farms

677B. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to promote the concept of floating fish farms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to promote this concept under the Eighth Five Year Plan to augment the food resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). Floating fish farms or floating cages are used for fish seed rearing in tanks at high densities and for raising table size fish in reservoirs using supplementary feed.

Pre-fabricated plastic cages are used presently for rearing seed in some of the States such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, etc. Feasibility studies have also been carried out on cage culture of fish in reservoirs by some of the State Governments such as Kerala and Goa through foreign assistance. Research and development studies are being carried out at the Central Fisheries Research

Institutes under ICAR on culture of table size fish.

[*Translation*]

Fertilizer Plants in Madhya Pradesh

6779. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer plants which remained closed during the year 1989-90;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of fertilizer plants functioning in Madhya Pradesh at present and the total production capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). One unit licensed to produce Ammonium Chloride at Varanasi remained closed down during the entire year due to financial constraints. Besides, 10 other units also remained shutdown for different periods on account of power-cuts, equipment break-downs, industrial relations problems, shortage of imported phosphoric acid and ammonia etc.

(c) There are eight fertilizer plants functioning in Madhya Pradesh with total annual installed capacity of 3,40,700 tonnes of Nitrogen, and 82,800 tonnes of Phosphates.

Electronic Exchange at Unnao District

6780. SHRI ANWAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install an electronic telephone exchange in Unnao district and if so, the details of the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) the time by which electronic exchange will be installed there and the details in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to instal a 1000 lines electronic exchange equipment and also provide necessary transmission medium to Kanpur.

(b) The electronic exchange is expected to be installed during 1991-92 subject to receipt of necessary equipments

[English]

Recommendations of the Committee on International Sea Freight Charges

6781. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI B.N. REDDY:
SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA:
SHRI T. BALA GOUD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by the Director General of Shipping constituted in October, 1988 for studying the international sea freight charges has submitted its report:

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made:

(c) whether shippers have expressed their reservations about the recommendations and pleaded that the matter be referred to either the National Institute of Port Management or the Bureau of the Industrial Costs and Prices; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee submitted its final report to the Government on 13.3.90.

(b) The main conclusions of the Committee are:

(i) There does not seem to be a case to reduce the Terminal Handling Charges (THC) currently being levied at Bombay.

(ii) There seems to be little possibility of scientifically concluding and arriving at any ideal freight rate for each commodity which could be valid over any period of time. The Committee, therefore, carried out a comparative study of freight rates of 19 common commodities, as given by the All India Shippers' Council, moving from India and neighbouring countries to the same destinations. This study has brought out that the freight rates were, more or less, comparable to those obtaining from adjoining ports.

(iii) On the basis of material made available to it, the committee was not able to make any categorical recommendations as to how the freight rates could be reduced and how this factor was coming in the way of Indian exports.

(c) The All India Shippers' Council has suggested to the Committee that the task of periodic assessment of fair and reasonable THC could be entrusted to an official agency such as the National Institute of Port Management or the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices or such other agency as the Government might think fit.