

lives. There have been recent occurrences where journalists who tried to expose corruption in high office and public office have been subjected not only to threat but to harassment, intimidation and assault. Therefore, may I know whether the Ministry has made any study of these trends because if the journalists cannot express their views without fear or favour, that would be a very sad day for our democracy?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : The Government believes in a free and fearless press. That has been stated many times. Like you, I salute any journalist who fearlessly performs his duty in public interest. That is why, if any particular case is brought to our notice, we write to the State Government and ask for information. One recent case is there in which—I would not like to mention the State because the matter is under investigation—it was pointed out to me that because of certain things he wrote that he was assaulted. The State Government has reported to me that the matter is under investigation. As soon as the investigation is complete, I will get the report.

Assistance for deep sea fishing

*831. **SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount given as assistance to the States for deep-sea fishing in 1985-86;

(b) whether any assistance has been given to Kerala during this period; and

(c) if so, the amount given to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) An amount of Rs. 136.56 lakhs was released to the maritime States during 1985-86 as Central share of expenditure for the Development of Minor Fishing Harbours designed to accommodate deep sea fishing vessels under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Apart from this, an amount of Rs. 62.60 lakhs was released to the Port Trusts for the Development of Major Fishing Harbours under the Central Scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Kerala has a long sea shore extending more than 500 KM which is suitable for fishing. By the end of the Sixth Plan when the total production of fish in the country was only 29.5 lakh tonnes, Kerala had produced 4.5 lakh tonnes. Even though Kerala is a small State—area-wise it is only 1 per cent of this big country—but still we do not have much facility for deep sea fishing. There is much scope in Kerala for tapping deep sea resources with improved crafts and gear technology. Will the Government be kind enough to give assistance to the Kerala Government for developing the deep sea fishing?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Yes. The Government of India is giving assistance for the deep sea fishing and so far we have given to Kerala also, Rs. 733.48 lakhs for the development of Cochin and Vizhinjam Fishing harbour.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : In his reply, the Hon. Minister has said that nothing has been given to Kerala Government in 1985-86. This Vizhinjam harbour in Kerala is planned as a harbour for the operation of this deep sea fishing vessels. The first stage of the project is now complete. According to the revised project report, for the completion of the second and third stages of the project, the total cost of the harbour and shore facilities is Rs. 9.12 crores. But in order to accelerate the execution of the schemes, will the Government be kind enough to expedite the sanction of this amount?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I will examine this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Throughout the country wherever there is coastal belt, it has been found that a large number of fishermen do not have any security at the time of fishing either for getting trawlers or for getting the help of mechanised boats. They do have to depend on certain cooperative societies and that too, with the assistance of the State Government, and sup-

ported by the Central Government. Haphazardly, an indiscriminate attitude is being developed also to distribute the assistance without comparing the actual fishing zone in that belt. I do not like to refer to the particular case of Bengal but in general this is happening. In this regard, I would request the Hon. Minister to consider a comprehensive proposal for having a deep sea fishing authority to undertake a survey of the actual fishing zone of the whole country in the deep sea and to provide a comprehensive proposal in terms of financial assistance and security of the mechanised boats so that all the fishermen of the country will understand the actual involvement of deep sea fishing through a comprehensive policy of the Government instead of *ad hoc* policy for Kerala or Bengal or Orissa.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is a good suggestion. We will examine.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : There are 23 lakhs fishermen in Kerala. We have brought almost all these fishermen under the co-operative sector. Now the deep sea fishing is mainly carried out by the big industries like the Tatas. So my request to you is whether the Government of India will help our co-operative sector to go into the deep sea fishing.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We, are helping the co-operative sector.

[Translation]

Provision of houses at concessional rates to class IV employees

*832. **SHRI JAGANATH PRASAD :** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide houses at concessional rates to Class IV employees of Government whose income is very low so that they can live in Delhi after their retirement and if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider this matter ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAIBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is no such specific Scheme. However, these employees can avail of the benefits under the Scheme for allotment of houses by DDA to retiring/retired employees in LIG and Janata categories as also the Scheme for allotment of small sized plots to LIG Sections under Rohini project.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : I want to know whether keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the class IV Employees after retirement with regard to housing, the Hon. Minister is considering some other scheme in addition to the scheme of D.D.A. ?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : There is no such proposal under consideration. Although in 1979 there was no priority for allotment of houses for the retiring employees, yet with a view to helping them it was decided in 1985 to give them priority. 1035 registrations were made in 1985 by the employees who had already retired on 15.12.1979 or were to be retired soon. Out of these applicants, 559 persons have been allotted flats. Of these flats, 284 are M.I.G. and 261 L.I.G. flats. The remaining applicants would also be allotted flats as and when the flats are available.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO : If the Associations of Class IV employees come forward to construct their own houses, will the Government think in terms of giving land to them at concessional prices as they have given earlier to some other associations and also loans at concessional rate of interest, spread over a period of fifteen years ?

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : As of now, we are very much hard-pressed for land in Delhi. The matter will be considered as soon as the land is available.