

[English]

**Loans to fishing industry**

\*833. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to give long term promotional assistance to deep-sea fishing industry by way of interest concessions on loans etc ;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to arrange for re-scheduling of repayment of Shipping Development Fund Committee loans and loans from other financial institutions ; and

(c) whether Government propose to convene a meeting of the nationalised banks so as to ensure that loans at reasonable terms are given to all fishing units, penal interest is done away with and high rates of interest on the purchase of fishing boats and trawlers are abolished ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

**Statement**

(a) Under the Trawler Development Scheme which was in operation till 31-3-86 soft loan facilities were extended to the fishing companies for aquisition of deep-sea fishing vessels by either import or indigeneous construction. Under the scheme, loans were extended upto 90 percent of CIF value in the case of imported trawlers at an annual interest rate of 7.5 percent and in the case of indigeneous trawlers, loans upto 95 percent of the cost of trawler minus 33 percent subsidy, which is given to Indian Shipyards, at an annual interest rate of 6.75 percent. Soft loans facilities, were, however, not available to the large houses and the companies coming under the provisions of MRTP/FERA. The continuance of the scheme beyond March 1986, is currently under review:

(b) A small Group has been constituted to look into the cases of overdues from defaulting Fishing companies and to suggest remedial measures including reschedulement, if necessary, for consideration of the Government.

There are only 4 companies involved who have defaulted in payment of dues arising from the deferred payment guarantees given by the State Bank of India to the Mexican Financing Institution on behalf of these companies to cover 80 percent of the cost of trawler imported from that country. In case of one company the SBI have agreed to reschedule the loan. In the case of remaining three companies, the SBI have filed civil suits in the Court of Subordinate Judge, Vishakhapatnam and the matter is pending.

(c) With a view to opening a supplementary window through commercial banks, negotiations are being held with the Nationalised banks, for extending soft loans at reasonable terms to the fishing industry for acquisition of deep sea fishing trawlers.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA : The statement that has been given to us is satisfactory and very exhaustive. But I would like to know from the hon Minister that when he says that the catches for the last year have been less than what it was in the earlier years, does it mean that either there is overfishing in the main fishing areas over there or is it because of more trawlers than what is necessary having been imported or constructed in India ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Our fleet of trawlers is not very big even at present. It should be nearly 300 to 500 where as it is only 120 at present including the 33 chartered trawlers. But the catch of the fish depends upon so many factors like climatic conditions and also sometimes the current of seas. Then there are migratory species which migrate from place to place. So there are a number of factors which affect the volume of the catch.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA : To develop deep sea fishing there was an incentive scheme whereby all State Corporations who deal in fishing were given trawlers out of turn, rather they were allowed to import trawlers.

May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the State Governments which have got trawlers for developing deep sea fishing within their limits or fishing in their own State area have moved over to Vizag as most of the fishing companies throughout India have now gone to Vizag where over-fishing is taking place and the fishermen there are not as active as the fishermen in Kerala because the over-fishing boats cannot operate in Kerala Waters. Regarding Part (c) of your answer, may I know from the Hon. Minister when he said that a small group has been constituted to go into all these details, will he also consider that the SDFG loan which is to be extended for another 3 months may be extended for one year so that all the backlog is also cleared?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is under review.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : It has been reported that the fish catch is on the decline especially in the Western Coast. I hope the Minister is also aware of this. He has made a hint of this in the answer. I would like to know whether a study has been conducted on the reasons for this? Is it due to over-exploitation of the resources and that leads to depletion of our valuable resources and in that case what conservation measures you are taking for keeping up our resources and for better resource management.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I can say that there is a marginal decline this year. But this question pertains about the assistance to the deep-sea finishing .... (Interruptions). It is not over-exploitation. There is a marginal decline, I can say, which is due to a number of reasons. There is no evidence at present to prove that this is because of the more number of Trawlers which are fishing in this area and, therefore, there is over-exploitation, you can say, and therefore there is a 'decline'. There is a slight decline, a marginal decline. But it cannot be said 'decline' also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Financial assistance to U.P. for Soyabean Development Project

\*934. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh for securing financial assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development for Integrated Soyabean Development Project ; and

(b) if so, the total estimated cost thereof and the action taken by Government in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA). (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. A proposal entitled "Integrated Development of Soyabean in Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh" has been received from Uttar Pradesh Government, for posing to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), for financial assistance. The proposal is for Rs. 4631.57 lakhs which entails Rs. 84.15 lakhs in foreign exchange.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been requested to provide certain further details to enable the Government of India to process the matter.

DR. CHANDR SHEKHARA TRIPATHI : Sir, may I know the date on which this proposal was submitted by the U.P. Government to the Central Government? What were the clarifications sought by the Centre and how many of them have since been received?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got with me all the information, but I am afraid it will make the reply unnecessarily long. This proposal is for the hills of Uttar Pradesh. In the first instance, it was referred to the Agricultural Finance Corporation, Bombay. The proposal includes some foreign exchange component about which we have asked from the State Government. The State Govern-