

the reply. After receipt of the reply the matter was referred to the Finance Ministry and the Finance Ministry wanted to know about 3 or 4 items which we have sent to the Andaman and Nicobar Government and we are awaiting information from them and as soon as we receive the information we will take a decision.

I would assure the hon Member that we agreed to the principle which he has stated just now. There is no difficulty in that.

Marine University in Kerala

*478. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Marine University is proposed to be set up in Kerala ;

(b) if so, the proposed location ;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study/survey to determine the best location for the Marine University ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether Government are considering Calicut as a possible location in view of the extensive fishing there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CORPORATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The answer given by the Minister is quite disappointing and I am sorry to say that my State of Kerala is once again ignored by the Centre.

The State of Kerala has 517 km of coastal line which is perhaps the longest coast line. Kerala stands first in the country so far as marine products are concerned. In matters of export also my State stands first. The Indian Ocean Study Group has also made it clear that Kerala waters have got the highest marine potential in the country.

Keeping in view all these factors, may I know from the hon Minister whether the Ministry will consider starting a Marine University in the State of Kerala ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : First of all I would like to inform the hon Members through you that there is a vast difference between a Marine University and a Fisheries University. What the hon Member has in mind is about a Fisheries University. If it is Marine University, then the Department of Oceanography will come into the picture. But he is talking about fisheries. In Kerala there is already one Fisheries College under Kerala Agricultural University and there are two Institutes of the ICAR which also impart education and training and give degrees. At present it is not necessary to have another University.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The answer given by the hon Minister is misleading. The hon Senior and Junior Ministers visit Kerala frequently and they are fully convinced of the necessity of starting a Marine University in Kerala.

In this connection may I know from the hon Minister whether the Government of Kerala has represented in this connection to start a Marine University in Kerala ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as the State Government is concerned, I have not received any proposal.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : I am sorry the answer given by the Minister is wrong.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There is a Kerala Agriculture University in Trichur and there is a College of Fisheries in Cochin which imparts education in Fisheries. 30 seats are available for B.Sc. (Fisheries) and 5 seats for M.Sc. (Fisheries).

SHRI SURESH KURUP ; He is misleading the House...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If he is wrong, he will be answerable.

Sick Iron Ore Mines

*479. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK ; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :