

[श्री रणधीर सिंह]

जाना चाहिए। रसूल एक बहुत मशहूर जगह है। पंजाब के सारे इंजिनियर रसूल से निकले हुए हैं। पता नहीं उसको आपने क्यों छोड़ दिया? बम्बई, नागपुर, इंग्लैंड और पेरिस तक आप चले गए, शिकागो तक पहुंच गए लेकिन रसूल को इग्नोर कर दिया। उसको भी आप इसमें शामिल कर लीजिए। क्या आप इसलिए भूल गए कि वह पाकिस्तान में है? पाकिस्तान में भी हमारे भाई हैं। हमारा उनका झगड़ा सिर्फ़ सियासी तौर पर ही है।

मेरे भाई ने बड़ी अच्छी बात कही है। मैं गया था मदुराय। वहां कोई डिप्लोमा होल्डर तो है नहीं।

सभपति महोदय, : आप अपना भाषण कल जारी रखें।

16 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : SHORTAGE OF FISH SUPPLY IN WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM (Contd.)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, today I am raising this discussion with the sole object of getting a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister, our dear friend, Shri Shinde, that the work for the Roychowk fishing harbour, which was sanctioned months ago, will be started within a month because we are missing very valuable dry months and we cannot afford to do it.

What is the position today? In West Bengal and Assam fish is being sold from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 a kilo. In Silchar the other day they sold fish at Rs. 25 a kilo. This is due mainly to partition and is to be taken by the Central Government as a national responsibility.

It is more felt in those two States because the majority of the population there is fish eaters and has no other form of protein.

Very recently an eminent scientist has said that the brain of a human being does not develop if he does not take enough protein at a particular age group.

SHRI P. K. DEO : They can take to groundnuts.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : The fish famine in West Bengal has happened due to the ruling party's close association with vested interests and politicking with food particularly in West Bengal and the regions adjoining it.

In the international chart what do we see? In Korea a man consumes 37 kilos of fish a year; in China 31 kilos and in India only 2.7 kilos. The catch in Peru, we see, is 10,520,300 tons, in Japan 86,69,800 tons, in Soviet Russia 60,82,100 tons and in India just 14 lakh tons for this vast population of 500 million people. It is a case of utter failure and lack of growth for which the Central Government should be held squarely responsible.

In West Bengal they have 85 kilometres of sea front and it is wholly untapped. The area of the sea-bed available for tapping is 38,856 square miles. The Estimates Committee, in their Fortieth Report, have very clearly stated on page 10 :-

"The Committee are unhappy to note the way in which the development of fisheries in the Bay of Bengal has been handled. It appears that initially no proper survey was made about the fisheries in the Bay of Bengal and the deep sea fishing operations undertaken by the Government of West Bengal on a commercial scale were unproductive."

Calcutta alone today needs for 55,50,195 heads, which is grossly underestimated, about 80,960 metric tonnes of fish. That works out to 6,350 maunds a day. We are getting at the moment 40 per cent and no more. We require not less than 139 lakh maunds of fish every year. Our production today at the most is 70 lakh maunds. This is the outcome of 20 years of Congress rule there.

There is also an inter-State racket which is working and that is one of the reasons for this sky-high price of fish. The production could easily be done from sweet water sources and also in the Brahmaputra in Assam which has been left untapped—that is way a man in Assam pays Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a kilo for fish—the deep sea of West Bengal, the coastal area, the estuarine Sunderbans and brackish water. We can also import from less fish-eating areas and other States through private sources and the Central Fisheries Corporation. The catch of the Government of India trawlers could easily be diverted to some extent for the consumption of these areas.

For the sweet water variety in inland tanks, rivers and bigger tanks very little has been done. They had a tank development programme. That only produced corruption, not fish. There was nothing organised for the river and the Government must be something about it. There are smaller dredgers which could clean and make those big water reservoirs fit for fish cultivation and it could be easily done. That has been neglected too. I request the Government to look into this matter also.

About the fishing harbour, I have said just now in regard to deep sea and coasting fishing. Originally, in 1963 and afterwards in 1964, the National Harbour Board recommended it and since then, oppressed by red-tape of the Central Secretariat and pressure from the vested interests, the whole thing was shelved. It remained shelved till 1967. That is why we want an assurance today right now on the floor of the House that something will be done about it immediately.

The Estimates Committee has also given further adverse comments. I shall read out some of them and the Government should make a note of them as to how the east coast, particularly the coast adjacent to West Bengal has been neglected. If you turn to p. 72, Appendix III, it says: "Deep Sea Fishing Organisation, Deep Sea Fishing Scheme, Superintending Engineer, Head of the Department." You will find the names of Bombay, Tuticorin, Cochin and Vizag. not a name of Orissa, not a name of West Bengal.

Then, on P. 66, it says :

"It has further been stated during evidence that "the position is that another World Bank Mission is now going round Bombay and Madras. We do not yet know the results of their study."

We are happy that they are going to Bombay and Madras. I would tell the hon. Minister not to forget those areas which are generating so much of wealth for your consumption, specially in foreign exchange.

What has happened to the previous attempt made by them. The Government of India also entered into an Agreement with the T. C. M. for modernisation of Marine Fisheries in India. On the basis of this Agreement, 3 Japanese Bull trawlers were obtained in April, 1955. They started giving trouble and irregular performance after the 3rd year of operations, primary reasons being frequent repairs the vessels needed, due to machinery disorders and break down. These were quite natural as the vessels were second hand and were built of wood seasoned under cold climatic conditions. Due to progressive looseness of the hull structure, alignment of the machineries went out of order and frequent breakdowns occurred, with unreasonably high repair costs and as they became unfit for dependable runs, both the vessels had to be discarded.

The whole thing was a half-hearted attempt and nothing was done. These were obtained from T. C. M. by the Government of India and these were full of defects and according to the reports of experts, they were unsuitable to work in tropical waters.

Further, in taking delivery of the Japanese trawlers, West Bengal Government had practically no hand in it. I need not go further. But we know it is a story of failure, callousness and half-heartedness.

Today, for West Bengal sea-coast, we require at least 305 trawlers. What are you going to do about it. Kindly tell us today. You have never cared to survey that water. There is no current fishing chart. So, the fishing ventures will have to undergo a lot of trouble before they could be

[Shri Jyotirmoy Basu]

commenced. Let us know today the target date and also about the formation of a public sector fishing corporation for operation and for tapping of valuable wealth there.

We also want to know what are you going to do about estuarine Sunderbans and brackish waters. Nothing has been done. In 1965, the Government of India forwarded to the West Bengal Government a pilot package programme for development of fishing industry in the Sunderbans and the adjoining Bay of Bengal. But nothing was done. It remained only in paper. I do not want to take much time of the House. I can only say that they only rendered lip-service and wrote some letters. There ended the matter.

The Central Fisheries Corporation was another mockery. They created it with the objective of procurement, movement, storage, distribution and sale of fish in the Calcutta markets with a view to ensuring fair price to the producers in India and to make fish available to the consumers at a reasonable price. About the total daily requirement of fish in Calcutta, I have already said about it. You will be surprised to hear that the Corporation proposed to start with 10,000 tonnes of fish per annum which comes to 23.30 tonnes per day, that is, about 16 per cent of the effective demand. As against this, the Corporation has so far failed to bring not even 2 tonnes of fish per day. This is their performance. This is their balance sheet. Their annual balance sheet. Net loss for 1965-66 (4 months) Rs. 2,08,244, 1966-67-net loss Rs. 5,60,714 and in 1967-68 the net loss is Rs. 12,68,063. The total loss upto the end of 1967-68 amounted to Rs. 20,37,022.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is up.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I am just finishing. Sir, I am putting the last nail on the coffin. I won't take much time.

We want the Minister to kindly tell us whether the catch of the Government of India trawlers at Madras, Tuticorin and Vizag will be marketed through the Calcutta Fisheries Marketing Corporation of consumption of people of Assam and West

Bengal. I think Orissa has a little more than we have.

Then, Sir, refrigerator trains are necessary for transporting fish. Then, Sir, you are ruining the Chilka lake due to siltation. That my friend, Mr. Singh Deo, will say. You don't want really to seriously negotiate with Pakistan for the import of fish from Pakistan. There they are selling fish at Rs. 2 per kg in East Pakistan while they are purchasing cement at Rs. 35 per bag a mound of coal at Rs. 12. You are surrendered to the imperialists and praitoined the country.

You must consider subsidising fish which is an essential item for human growth. About Namkhana I may tell you that the Namkhana matter is still pending with you. You have sanctioned funds at the end of the financial year and the job was given to the Port Commissioner and your organization sat over it for ten months and then they said that they cannot do it. You have misled the House. I am sorry Namkhana was not due to State Government's failure but to your mixing up the whole thing and making a mess of the whole affair.

Thank you.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, it is a matter of concern that there has been an acute shortage of edible fish and the increase in production has not been able to cope with the growth of the fish-eating population. In spite of the efforts being made by the Central Fisheries Corporation, it has not taken us anywhere. In this regard I would like to point out that we have failed to adopt modern fishing methods. Our seas which have got an unlimited capacity of production of fish remain untapped. Both our territorial waters and the high seas have got high potentiality for fish production but we have failed in adopting the modern fishing methods, so far as Bay of Bengal is concerned.

Though some development has already taken place in the West Coast with Norwegian collaboration in the Kerala and Konkan coasts, nothing has been done so far as the east coast is concerned even though there is a large concentration of fish-eating population in this part of the

country. Out of 1920 kilometers of east coast Orissa has got a sea board of 480km. As the latest research in this regard has proved, it provides very fertile ground for sea-fishing and the Orissa coast which extends over 480 km is known to contain rich fishing grounds requiring exploitation of the continental shell as well as the potentiality of deep sea reserves in the Bay of Bengal. Recent statistics of a sample survey held by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute have shown that in 1966 the production was 10,000 tonnes. It has increased to 30,000 tonnes by 1969 and there is every possibility to increase it to 1 lakh tonnes. But there are various limitations in this regard.

So far as the production of fish in the Orissa coast is concerned, I beg to submit that of the total production, 65% are found to be of extremely good quality, mainly shrimps, prawns, pomfrest and the like and the rest 25% could be used as fishmeal or poultry-feed. So, all the fish that could be collected in the Orissa coast could be properly utilised for these purposes

The main impediment in this regard is that there has been no provision made for a fishing harbour, including facilities for repair, processing and facilities for storage.

It is very well-known to the Minister that Paradeep has got a very good fishing ground, though at the moment there are only a few wooden trawlers functioning there; and because there are no proper facilities of a fishing harbour, things do not improve there.

In this regard a Pre-Investment Survey Team went into the question and they have recommended to the Government of India for providing money in the Fourth Plan. To make Paradip a fishing harbour. But nothing has been indicated in the Fourth Plan of the Government of India. The Paradeep Port Trust is now the Government of India's concern. There are other fishing areas like Chandipur, Chandbati, Sonapur, Gopalpur, etc.

So far as Chilka is concerned, I like to point out that it is famous for producing very tasty and high-class fish, but it is getting silted. Dr. K. L. Rao has many a

time suggested in this House that they are going to dredge the mouth of Chilka which is getting silted. We have to see that there is no silting in the estuaries of the Chilka lake from the sea.

Coming to Inland Fisheries, I would like to point out that the swamps on both sides of the railway lines are covering thousands and thousands of miles and there are water hyacinths and other weeds which have to be cleared up. Only then we could develop inland fishing.

Now, as a result of latest research, for producing fingerlings and pawns, we need not have to go to the rain water or the flood season; even by pituitary injection we can produce these fingerlings. So, all these swamps on both sides of the Railway line could be developed.

Lastly I would like to point out one thing. There are various big projects like Hirakud Dam, Rihand, Maithon, Mata Tilla etc. Huge artificial lakes are being created. But, there has been no proper foresight. Since the jungles have not been cleared, those stumps have been standing there, inside the water. This is particularly so in Hirakud where while netting, the nets get torn. If the jungle had been cleared the water would have been idle for fish culture. Now, to cut down all those stumps which have become solid and fossilised would be a very expensive thing. I only wish to submit that better forethought should have been bestowed in taking up these projects.

I come to my last point. It is about transportation. There should have been refrigerated wagons and lorries because fish is a perishable product. Unless they come to the market and there are proper cold storage facilities and proper canning facilities, this problem cannot be solved. If these are not done, even whatever little is produced will get lost and damaged.

Finally, I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider the various recommendations made in the 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st and 42nd Reports of the Estimates Committee of the Fourth Lok Sabha. The recommendation made in those reports should be implemented.

[Shri P. K. Das]

Another very fertile area is the Andaman waters where we get plenty of Tuna fish. During my last visit to the Andaman I have seen that the Chinese and the Indonesians' fishing boats have entered into our territorial waters for catching fish. That thing should be stopped. There should be proper patrolling and we should have fast-moving patrol boats so that no foreign ships could come to our territorial waters to catch fish. Thank you.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kaliabor) : I share with the two previous speakers who also belong to the eastern region as I do, the feelings expressed by them that the shortage of fish in the eastern area is a danger or hazard to the health of the people there.

This shortage has come about because of certain aspects of our policy. It is rather a general problem because this aspect of pisciculture has not been so earnestly dealt with as it should be.

I realise that this problem has two aspects. One is the national aspect and the other is the problem of food in the eastern area where food supply is very small and because of climate and other reasons it is not possible to increase the food supply in those areas to the extent that it is possible in other areas in North India. So, the food supply aspect in the eastern region is different from that in the other parts of North India. I would like to point out that even with the aid of 300 or more trawlers only about 1.4 million fish are being caught. But even that is caught mainly in the western side of India. The catch from inland fisheries is very negligible; it may be just 4 lakhs only, and that also in the eastern area may not be more than 2 lakhs. So the scarcity of fish would continue in the eastern region, and this scarcity is bound to be there because of the export commitments for fish.

So, in relation to internal consumption, we have to think of other avenues I would submit that marine fisheries has not been considered from this point of view. This aspect has to be very seriously considered.

My hon. friend Shri Jyotirmoy Basu said that we should import fish from Pakistan. That was exactly what we also meant. If we can export coal to Pakistan and import fish from Pakistan, it would certainly be a contribution to our health. I feel that we can do it....

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA (Raiganj) : But Pakistan will neither accept our coal nor give us fish (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : If we take it up seriously, then there can be hope that we would be able to get fish from East Pakistan.

Transport of fish from other parts of the country to Assam it is not also feasible because of lack of refrigeration and other facilities. But nothing has been done even in this direction, so as to transport fish from other parts to Assam and Bengal.

Formerly, the whole eastern region was one unit, and there was a time when Pakistan fish used to come to Assam and Bengal. Even now, Pakistanis are selling fish in their local market at Re. 1 per k. g. But in Assam, it is very costly, and the price ranges from Rs. 15 to 20 per k. g. or even more. Fish happens to be the only protein food available to the people of Assam. The same is the case in Bengal also.

In these circumstances, the possibility of improving the fish supply has to be explored. When it comes to question of research, we are told that Rs. 8 lakhs have been allotted for inland fisheries which is the only possible source of fish. In this connection, I would urge Government to consider the question of developing fisheries in the Brahmaputra waters. The fishing boats that are there at present cannot be used for fishing in the Brahmaputra which is one of the widest rivers. I would like to know whether Government have devised or developed any type of fishing boat which can be used for fishing in the Brahmaputra waters. Since Brahmaputra is the only possible source of supply of fish for Assam, we have to develop this very much, instead of marine fisheries, I know that marine fisheries can be developed, and it is said that the potential in that regard is 14

million tonnes. But so far as Assam is concerned, or so far as the eastern region is concerned, I think this region has to be inter-dependent.

Even then, considering the present situation in which, as many members have pointed out it may not be possible to get it from East Bengal, we will necessarily have to rely upon our inland resources for fishing. The Brahmaputra and its tributaries offer a vast field for exploitation in this respect. But neither has research on this been done nor have the implements necessary been provided nor have the trawlers necessary for marine fishing been arranged. The result is that Assam which has vast resources of fish finds that they remain untapped. The resources have not even been assessed. I want to know whether the possibility of exploiting the fish resources of Brahmaputra have ever been assessed or the necessary implements required for the purpose been thought of. Nothing has been done in this direction either by the State Government or by the Government over here.

In the context of development on a national scale, the fishing industry assumes an importance which has not been sufficiently recognised. This is not like agriculture where there is no limitation. Here if we do not catch the fish-as against the 14 million tonnes, we are only getting one million tonnes-it means we are losing 13 million tonnes. This is tantamount to a loss of a few hundreds of crores of rupees.

Again this is something that does not require land: it does not need application of sophisticated techniques; it is just a question of a small investment in getting the requisite implements, vessels etc. for catching the fish. At the same time, the potential for foreign exchange in the development of marine fisheries is great. It vastly benefits the rural people. It is an industry which has tremendous scope for economic development. Also, if only 1 million tonnes of fish are caught, it means the 13 million tonnes are simply wasted every year.

In this situation, we can easily tap this resource. Everything should be done to make it possible expeditiously. I am happy that though so long it has been neglected, at last certain things are being done, that

the Reserve Bank will consider fisheries as equal to agriculture—a very great mercy. I think this is a source of resource which is available on tap, which has just to be tapped and should be tapped so that we can get not a hundred crores but hundreds of crores of rupees worth of important edible commodity. This is a field to which Government should devote greater attention than they have done heretofore.

SHRI S KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : This is a field with immense potentialities but unfortunately in our country it has been totally neglected since independence. I do not know what sort of approach was responsible for the Government woefully neglecting it. It could, to a very great extent, have solved the problem of food shortage in the country; more than that, it could have solved the problem of under-nourishment also.

Year before last the Estimates Committee submitted a report where on page 48, they categorically say :

"The Committee need hardly point out that the yardstick for the development of the fishery industry in the country is the number of fishing harbours and since large-scale operations are only possible from fishing harbours".

They go on to point out that even in some ports which are considered to be major where these facilities for berthing are available, the facilities are inadequate. They list the ports as Bombay, Haldia, Mangalore, Tuticorin and Visakhapatnam.

If such is the condition, I wonder how Government can justify their claim that they are making all efforts to see that we exploit to the maximum possible extent all available potential, inland as well as in the seas around India.

Again on page 75, the Committee say :

"The Committee note that of the three great oceans in the world, the Indian Ocean is the least exploited one, the exploitation amounting to only about 2 million tonnes per annum."

I would like to know what steps they have

[Shri S. Kandappan]

been taking to exploit this potential to the full.

I am reminded of the woeful incident which happened some years back with regard to the fisher folk who were taken from the Kerala coast, who were rather tempted and baited by the Government of India saying that there was immense potential in the ocean surrounding Andaman Islands where Tuna fish, which is in great demand in the international market, abounds in the waters, that they could have a very good jolly life, that they could settle there and exploit the fish. I remember that 25 families were taken there a decade ago. A few years ago when I went to Port Blair in the Andamans, they came and complained to me and to my other colleagues who were also Members of Parliament, that they would rather go back to Kerala. They only wanted the freight charges from the Government of India to go back. We asked what happened to the promise of the Government and what was happening to the exploitation of fish in the waters. They said that no vessels had been provided to them, no facility had been arranged for catching, they were not even able to make both ends meet. Their catch was meagre and none of the modern facilities that should be there was available. I do not know the position today, but this was the position three years ago.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : And the allocation of money to Andamans has been refunded for the last three Plan periods.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : That is a fact. If that is going to be the position, I wonder how we are going to make any real headway with regard to the improvement of fisheries in our country.

The Government of India has also totally failed to make any progress in either indigenously manufacturing the vessels that are needed for deep sea fishing or importing the vessels. Again I quote from the Estimates Committee report, page 20:

“The Committee note the number of fishing vessels proposed to be acquired during the period ending 1970-71 for fisheries development in the country,

but are constrained to observe that not a single fishing vessel has been acquired so far since 1966-67”.

So, for three or four years, inspite of their proposal for acquiring many vessels, they did not succeed in acquiring even a single vessel.

So, such is the sorry state of affairs which is being repeated under this Ministry, and I would like to know from the Government whether they are seriously taking any measures to see that we really do something to improve the fish catching in our country.

I happened to be one of the members of this Committee, and when this Committee went on tour, there were representations from many fisher folk about modern vessels, particularly power driven vessels. They preferred yenmar engines or some other imported engines. I understand, and I am sure the hon. Minister is aware of it, that there was a proposal for collaboration with this yenmar Company in Japan to start the manufacture of this engine in Madras. In Ennore near Madras about 200 acres of land were acquired for this purpose, but subsequently I do not know what happened, that programme has not gone through, and even today fisher folk from our area tell us that the other indigenously manufactured engines, though they are considered to be manufactured by very reputed firms, generate heat to the extent that it is impossible to operate the vessels for a long time in the ocean.

So, these are all various aspects of the question that have to be attended to by the Government and I am sorry to say that as far as the performance of the Government on the fisheries front is concerned, it is a total and complete failure. At least keeping in view the food shortage and the under-nourishment prevalent in the country, the Government should really take serious steps about it.

As mentioned by an earlier speaker, we have got immense potential for export. The international demand is very great and it goes on increasing year to year. There is no difficulty with regard to export at all. We can definitely export whatever we can

and in addition, there is the so-called internal market. Here I would like to emphasise this point that except the coastal States, particularly Kerala, West Bengal and certain areas of Tamil Nadu, most of the Indian States do not consume much fish, but it does not mean that there is no potential or there is no possibility of local consumption. The only thing is that we have not made enough fish available in the local market.

We have all along been thinking of international markets. Even there we are not able to meet the demand. On both counts, there is every reason for us to go ahead with a big plan so that we can exploit the big seas that surround our nation.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : I congratulate the sponsor of the motion which relates to the shortage of fish in Bengal and Assam. I find hon. Members covering all over India, such as Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala etc. I would have liked it if they had helped us to get something ... (*Interruptions*) Some thought should be given on how to develop fisheries in Assam. I agree that this is an all-India problem. In fifteen days from now, the price of paddy in Assam will be Rs. 14 or 15 per maund-parmal variety. But the price of fish, Rui, is Rs. 14 per kilo. This is the lot of Assam. (*Interruption..*) It is not so in Calcutta or in Orissa; no other State suffers that much; nobody can deny this. There is a Fisheries Department in Assam. The Brahmaputra valley is 450 miles long; there is deep water in the Brahmaputra, all the year round. So fish also are there all the year round. As Mr. Kandappan was saying, when I was in the Estimates Committee a sum of Rs. 80,000 was granted by the Government of India for preparing a special boat for fishing in the Brahmaputra. Three or four years have passed; the boat is not there. It should be a boat suitable for deep water fishing; Brahmaputra is deep; special net is necessary. Have any investigations been made by the Fisheries Corporation of India to help Assam in this matter? If the Government took the trouble of studying this problem, Assam would not have faced this serious situation. I request them to make a study of deep water fishing in Brahmaputra to ease Assam's suffering.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : The question of fish is important. Considering the fact that there is protein deficiency in our diet and consequent under-nourishment, one can realise the importance of fish as a source of protein. We are surrounded by sea on all the three sides; yet we have not been able to develop fisheries to the desired extent. (*Interruption*) Well, he does not know that fish is called *jal tori* in our parts. Sir, I wish to emphasise that our Government has really neglected this problem for the last 20 years. I would go further and say that large part of the country which used to supply fish has gone to Pakistan. Really, if there had been no division of the country which unfortunately took place in 1947, our shortage in fish would not be so much as it is at present, because the best part of the area which used to produce fish has gone to Pakistan.

I wish also to emphasise that fish is a very good earner of foreign exchange to us, and there is a lot of demand for our good fish in foreign countries. But the unfortunate position is that we cannot feed our own people. In fact, we should produce it to such an extent that we can first provide it to our own people and then we should think of earning foreign exchange and export of fish. But the difficulty is that people in Bengal, whose main diet is fish, and rice, are not able to get enough fish. Considering that we have got the sea on three sides, and also big rivers and big lakes, it is unfortunately a sad commentary on the functioning of Government that they have not been able to do something at least in the matter during the last 20 years. Therefore, it is high time that their attention was drawn to this, and in that way, we are thankful to Shri Jyotirmoy Basu for having pinpointed this problem before the House.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती (मेरठ) : हमारे देश में दो तरह की मछली है जिनकी ख़ात भी है—एक तो समुन्दर की मछली और दूसरे मीठे जल की मछली। समुन्दर के मामले में हिन्दुस्तान का समुन्दर सबसे मालदार समुन्दरों में से एक है जिस समुन्दर में यूरोप के लोग भी आकर के मछली पकड़ ले जाते हैं लेकिन हम नहीं पकड़ पा रहे। जहाँ तक टेक-

[श्री महाराज सिंह भारती]

नालाजी का सवाल है वह हमारे पास मौजूद है। ट्रेलर्स हम अग्रर बना सकते हैं या मंगा सकते हैं तो इस काम को हम कर सकते हैं। साथ में हमें थोड़ा सा दृष्टिकोण भी बदलना होगा। जैसे गुजरात के पास फिशिंग के लिए बहुत बढ़िया अरब सागर है लेकिन गुजरात की शाकाहारी सरकार उसको कभी एक्सप्लायट नहीं करना चाहती। मैं टोकियो की बाजार में फिश की मंडी देखने के लिए चला गया। मुझे खयाल था कि दो मील पहले से ही बंदू आनी शुरू हो जायेगी लेकिन मुझे देखकर आश्चर्य हुआ कि जहाँ पर हजारों मन मछलियाँ बिक रही हैं वहाँ पर मछली घूँघने से भी मछली की बंदू नहीं आती। हिन्दुस्तान इतना बड़ा मुल्क है यहाँ पर हम मछलियों के ट्रान्सपोर्टेशन के लिए कम टेम्पचर वाले सिस्टम को ईजाद कर दें, उस तरह के रेल वेगन हों, उस तरह की ट्रक्स हों और जगह जगह जो ऋड आइस होता है उसको इस्तेमाल कर सकें तो यहाँ भी मछलियाँ डि-कम्पोज नहीं होंगी और हम उनको आसानी से एक जगह से दूसरी जगह भेज सकते हैं। दिल्ली में 6 रुपए और कलकत्ता में 12 रु. किलो जो मछली बिकती है उसका कारण यही है कि हम आसानी से ट्रान्सपोर्टेशन नहीं कर सकते हैं। तो एक तरफ समुन्दर में मछलियों का इतना बड़ा भण्डार है और दूसरी तरफ हमारे पास टेक्नालाजी भी मौजूद है फिर भी अग्रर हम उसका इस्तेमाल न कर पाये तो यह उन लोगों के लिए कितनी लानत और शर्म की बात है। जो कि सरकार चला रहे है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इस देश के अन्दर जो हमारा स्वीट वाटर है उसकी मछली को हमारे मुल्क में ज्यादा पसन्द किया जाता है। कलकत्ता समुन्दर के किनारे होते हुए भी भीठे पानी की मछली को पसन्द करता है। भीठे पानी की मछली को पंदा करने के दो तरीके हमारे पास मौजूद हैं। मछलियों को

मस्टीप्लार्ई करने का एक तरीका यह है कि बरसात के दिनों में जब नदियाँ फँलती हैं उस वक्त हम मछली के बच्चों को पकड़ लेते हैं और बाद में उनको बांट देते हैं। उनको बांटने की टेक्नीक बिल्कुल मुम्मि और आधुनिक है हमारे पास है। हम आक्सीजन देकर उन बच्चों को जिन्दा रखकर कहीं से कहीं ट्रान्सपोर्ट कर सकते हैं और उसमें कँजुअल्टी बहुत कम होती है। लेकिन मुसीबत यह है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की गोमती और दिल्ली की जमुना को छोड़कर बाकी नदियों में बच्चे पकड़ने का काम नहीं किया गया है—80 प्रतिशत सिर्फ इन नदियों से आते हैं। तो खाने वाले कलकत्ता और मद्रास के और पकड़ने वाले दिल्ली और लखनऊ के। सरकार इस बात का ध्यान रखे कि सभी नदियों में बच्चे पकड़ने का काम किया जाये तो बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर आप इस काम को कर सकते हैं।

दूसरी टेक्नीक और है। एक आधुनिक टेक्नालाजी डेवलप कर ली गई है जिसमें मरी हुई मछली जिसका सिर नहीं खाया जाता उसमें से हारमोन निकाल कर, वह हारमोन फीमेल मछलीको देकर उसे प्रोगेनेट करके फौरन अंडे ले लेते हैं। चलते पानी में जो मछली वियाती थी उससे स्थिर पानी में अंडे ले लेते हैं। तो टेक्नीक मुकम्मिल है लेकिन आप अभी तक उसका इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाये हैं। मालूम पड़ता है कि सरकार को चलाने वाले ज्यादातर लोग उसी तरह के हैं जोकि शाकाहारी होने में यकीन करते हैं और मछलियों से नफरत करते हैं। अग्रर यही हाल रहा तो इस मुल्क का बहुत बड़ा नुकसान होगा। अग्रर बड़े पैमाने पर हम मछली उद्योग चलाने चाहे तो न सिर्फ बहुत विदेशी मुद्रा ही हमको मिलेगी बल्कि जो चावल खाने वाले लोग हैं जिनके लिए मछली ही गोश्त का साधन है उनकी खुराक हम पूरी कर सकेंगे क्योंकि अग्रर मछली खाने वाले को अग्रर आप भैंस खिलाना चाहें तो वह मुफ्त में भी नहीं खायेगा। इसी तरह से रोटियों के साथ

जो बंजारी मुर्गा उड़ाता है उसको अगर आप भेंस देना चाहें तो वह भी नहीं खायेगा। और जो राइस ईटिंग एरिया हैं उनके लिए प्रोटीन की डाइट और स्वाद के दृष्टिकोण से मछली सबसे जरूरी है। (श्रवधान) हरियाणा वाला बाजरा खायेगा तो वह मछली कैसे खायेगा। तो मैं कहूंगा कि जो टेक्नीक हमारे है और जो हमारे पास रिसोर्सेज है उनकी अगर उपेक्षा की जाती है तो यह बुरी बात है।

SHRI S. KUNDU : Sir, I am told that more than 90 per cent of our fish export is confined to the west coast and the Cochin harbour. I do not know why exports of fish are confined to that area. If you develop the Orissa coast fishing potentiality, the entire requirement of Calcutta will be met and you can even export fish after meeting our internal requirements. But nothing has been done so far. Our planners have not taken special cognizance of this matter. When our traditional exports are shrinking, a lot of attention should be given to non traditional items like cashew and fish. The Minister has got a big empire under him—community development, fertilisers, agriculture, fisheries and so on. He should pay some attention to this. Some of the fishing harbour projects in Chandbali, Pradip, Kirthanian in the Subarnarekha mouth and Auda have not seen the light of the day. Something positive should be done. The Minister should give a categorical reply that this will be done.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI (Basirhat): Sir, before partition, the main source of supply of fish to the eastern region was Pakistan. After partition, that source has been stopped. There are also other causes, like want of facilities for development of fisheries, non-exploitation of the possibilities of fishing in the Bay of Bengal area and non-implementation of fisheries projects due to insufficient funds. All these factors have cumulatively culminated in the very high price of fish in west Bengal. Another very important cause which has accentuated it in the recent past is the slanderous attack of the Marxist Party on the Tank Fisheries which took place from 1967 to 1969. This is also one of the causes. I think, my hon. friend, Shri Basu, will agree with me that

they wanted to unearth the *benami* properties in the State of West Bengal during the United Front regime. At that time the Department of Fisheries was in the hands of the Marxist Communist Party to which my hon. friend, Shri Basu, belongs, as well as the land and land revenue departments. My friend's party did not think it fit at that time to exploit those tank fisheries if actually not within the ceiling limits through the relevant department of the Ministry which they were occupying.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : What was the price of fish before 1967 ?

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : This is also another cause.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of the Minister is that at present the high price has taken a very acute shape. That is due to the octroi imposition in the area of Calcutta.

Since the time is very short, I will only request the Minister to see that desiltation of tank fisheries is effected very soon and other projects which are lying with the Government of West Bengal are effected with sufficient funds.

श्री शिखरे (पंजिम) : सभापति महोदय, जो लोग पहले मछली खाया करते थे, क्योंकि उनके बाप दादा, पूर्वज, मछली खाया करते थे लेकिन अभी जब से यह प्रोटीन का और न्यूट्रीशन का मामला शुरू हुआ है तो सब लोगों ने भी मछली खाना शुरू कर दिया है। तब से लोग मछली खाने लग गए हैं। पहले जमाने में केवल मेरे जैसे सारस्वत ब्राह्मण ही मछली खाया करते थे क्योंकि इनको धार्मिक रीति रिवाजों से लाइसेंस मिला हुआ था। अब बाकी लोगों ने भी, दूसरे ब्राह्मणों ने भी मछली खाना शुरू कर दिया है। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि मछली की कठिनाई वाला जो मामला है, जो हमारे सामने है इसको हल करने का अब एक ही तरीका हो सकता है और वह यह है कि हमारी सरकार हिन्दू महा सभा का सहकार्य लेकर उस हिन्दू महा सभा से प्रपील करे कि

[श्री शिकरे]

सब लोग और विशेषकर जो ब्राह्मण हैं, वे मछली खाना छोड़ दें। वही लोग मछली ज्यादा खा रहे हैं जो समुद्र से दूर रहते हैं। परिस्थितियों का इस प्रकार से निर्माण हो रहा है कि हरियाणा जैसे दूरस्थ स्थानों में रहने वाले लोग ही ज्यादा मछलियां खाते हैं और हमारे जैसे लोग जो समुद्र के किनारे रहते हैं, जो मछली खाने वाले लोग हैं, उनको मछलियां मिलती नहीं हैं।

बार बार कहा गया है कि हमारा जो समुद्री किनारा है वह करीब तीन हजार मील लम्बा है। अरब सागर है, हिन्द महासागर है और वहां मछली का उत्पादन बड़े पैमाने पर हो सकता है। सब कुछ कहा गया है। लेकिन मैं कहूंगा कि हम लोग एक बात ध्यान में रखें। हमारे सागर में करीब चार महीने तक जोरदार मानसून रहता है और इस सीजन में समुद्र में फिशिंग करना मुश्किल हो जाता है। हमारे यांत्रिक पड़ाव भी जो होते हैं वे भी नहीं जा सकते हैं। इसलिए जहां तक कैनिंग इन्डस्ट्री का सम्बन्ध है, उसको हम ज्यादा प्रोत्साहन नहीं देते हैं, उसके लिए ज्यादा सुविधा नहीं देते हैं, तब तक यह जो मछली की कमी का मामला है, यह हल नहीं हो सकता है।

मैंने गोम्रा में पिछले महीने देखा है कि वहां पर बांगडा (मेकरल) एक रुपये में सी मिलता था। हमारे कालिटा जी कहेंगे कि तुम तो मुखी हो और तुम को एक रुपये में सी मिलता है, यानी कम से कम एक रुपये का दस किलो मिलता है। हमारे यहां तो चौदह पन्द्रह रुपये किलो होता है। लेकिन आप जानते हैं कि गोम्रा में क्या हुआ? जो बांगडा मिलता है उसके कैनिंग की सुविधा वहां नहीं है, इसलिए जब बांगडा या अन्य मछली ज्यादा मिलती है तब उसका उपयोग फॉटिलाइजर के लिए खाद के लिए किया जाता है। कहीं पर लोगों को बांगडा खाने को नहीं मिलता है, मछली खाने

को नहीं मिलती है लेकिन वहां उसका उपयोग खाद बनाने के लिए किया जाता है। यह सब सीजन की बात है। सीजन में यह मछली विशेष कर पैदा होती है, पकड़ी जाती हैं। वहां का यह मामला है। इस वास्ते मैं यही कहूंगा कि जिस सीजन में वहां ज्यादा मछली मिलती है उसको कैनिंग की इंडस्ट्री को प्रोत्साहन देकर प्रिजर्व किया जा सकता है। जब तक कैनिंग इंडस्ट्री का विकास नहीं होगा तब तक यह मामला साल्व नहीं होगा।

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): At least allow me 2 minutes. I have written to the Speaker that I will speak on behalf of the P. S. P. party. This is absolutely wrong. Kindly allow me few minutes.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा: एक एक दो दो मिनट दोनों को दे दें।

सभापति महोदय: इसके लिए एक घंटा था। हर पार्टी का एक एक आदमी हमने बुलाया हम चाहते थे कि हर पार्टी को मौका मिल जाए और यह डिसकशन आज कम्पलीट हो जाए। लेकिन तीन तीन मिनट के बजाय माननीय सदस्यों ने पांच पांच और दस दस मिनट ले लिये। अच्छा आप दो मिनट में खत्म करें।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the deficit in fish in West Bengal is about 84 per cent and only 16 per cent of fish is produced in the State itself. I should say, in the last 20 years, the Congress Government criminally neglected the development of fish production in West Bengal. (Interruption) I do not know why my hon. friend Shri Jyotirmoy Basu raised this question only to get a rebuff from the Government. They have looted 110 fisheries of 24 Praganas covering an area of 33,000 aers of in 24 praganas above (Interruption)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All this you have mentioned before. come your point.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am giving you the concrete figures. There are 33,000 acres of land, all in the name of benami land. But the expert committee which was instituted by the U. F. Government said that not a single fishery of 24-Praganas was a benami land... (Interruption)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: This is utterly wrong and fabricated. Sir, I want another Member from my party to speak... (Interruptions)

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Now the discussion is closed. The hon. Minister will place his reply on the Table of the House.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: (Interruptions) you are taking the time of the House. There is no time left for the Minister to reply.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I will not take much time. (Interruption)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All right; please be brief.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, 10,000 tonnes of fish per day is the requirement of Calcutta. As against that, what we are getting is only 3500 tonnes per day. Out of this, 40 per cent was supplied from 24-Praganas. As a result of the looting in 24-Praganas, the price has gone up...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: There was no looting; this is all bogus and fabricated story. (Interruption)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Now, I am coming to the point. From 1946 to 1956, Calcutta consumed Rs. 240 crores worth of fish coming from outside. Again, I should tell you another thing. The Fisheries Department in West Bengal is rotten. Dr. Saha is the Director. He has no idea (Interruption)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Sir, he has mentioned the name He should not mention names. He is a very competent man. He has written valuable books... (Interruption)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Then, will

tell you another thing as to what they are doing. For Carpinus, commonly known as the American Rahu, the very fast breeding type of fish, for thousand seeds cost is only 20 Paise according to the report of the fish inquiry committee of the Government of India but the Fisheries Department of West Bengal charge Rs. 34 per thousand of the seeds of this fish. (Interruption) I am today ill. I know how to deal with gentlemen like Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu and others. I do not want to get excited.

17 hrs.

West Bengal has a food deficit of 11% only. If the Government had been a little bit careful, there are tank fisheries, riverine fisheries, there is brackish water fishing, there is marshy land, there is deep-sea fishing and there is shallow sea-fishing and this 11% food deficit can be met through increased fish production very easily. As a result, West Bengal can meet this food deficit and even become a surplus State.

I want to know from the Government whether the Minister himself will visit West Bengal and make a survey and explore the possibility of developing fish production in West Bengal.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुवनी) : सर्भापति महोदय, चाहे बंगाल हो और चाहे आसाम या बिहार, मोटे तौर पर कुछ कदम ऐसे हैं, जिन को अगर सरकार उठाये, तो फिर सप्लाई बढ़ सकती है। नैचरल रेजरवायर्ज में, चाहे वे सुन्दरबन हो, ब्रह्मपुत्र हो या दूसरी नदियां, मछलियों का काफी उत्पादन हो सकता है। इसी प्रकार पोखरों में भी मछलियों की पैदावार बढ़ाई जा सकती है। लेकिन सरकार ने अभी तक इस तरह ध्यान नहीं दिया है।

फिशिंग उद्योग इस वक्त फुली माइजाइज्ड और मेकेनाइज्ड नहीं है। इस के लिए ट्रालर्स, बोट्स और मोटरबोट्स की कमी है। सरकार उधर ध्यान नहीं दे रही है, जिस की वजह से मछलियों की पैदावार नहीं बढ़ रही है।

सरकार मछली उद्योग को को-ऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर चलाने में सहायता कर सकती है

[श्री शिवचन्द्र भा]

और यदि उसको व्यक्तिक ढंग पर चलाया जाये, तो भी उसको मेकेनाइज और माड्रनाइज किया जा सकता है। इस उद्योग को को-ऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर चलाने से मछली का उत्पादन बढ़ सकता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि फिशिंग उद्योग को-ऑपरेटिव आधार पर कितना चल रहा है और इस बारे में चौथी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है।

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या नेशनलाइज्ड बैंक्स की ओर से इस उद्योग को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए इस उद्योग में लगे हुए व्यक्तियों और को-ऑपरेटिव्स को चीप रेट पर लोन दिये जाने की व्यवस्था की जायेगी। वे लोन सीडज या इस्ट्रुमेंट्स के लिए दिये जा सकते हैं।

मछली उद्योग में ज्यादातर सप्लाइ एंड डिमांड का इकानॉमिक्स काम करता है। इस लिए इस उद्योग में प्राइस स्टेबिलिटी लाई जानी चाहिए और रस्ट्रिक्ट प्राइस कंट्रोल होना चाहिए। बंगाल के लोगों का तो वह खाना है ही, लेकिन दरभंगा के हम लोग भी मछली खाते हैं। लेकिन वह यहाँ पर छः रुपये किलो है और बंगाल में उस से भी ज्यादा है। इसलिए मैं ज्यादा कोशिश मुर्गा खाने की करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SAINDE): I really admire the tenacity of Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu because on the last occasion also he pursued this subject but, I think, he did not complete the discussion. But I am glad he has succeeded in persuading the Speaker in finding time and ultimately this discussion regarding fish is taking place to-day.

I was really expecting very constructive suggestions from Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu, but, unfortunately, as is the habit with him, he tries to introduce a number of political factors in a subject which is absolutely non-

political. (Interruption). Truth is always bitter and he was trying to protest very strongly when truth was mentioned.

I myself at least would like not to go into politics, because, this is a matter which is important; not only from the point of view of our Bengal brothers and Assam brothers, but of the entire coastal areas. This has really assumed importance in West Bengal and Calcutta because of certain historical reasons. (Interruption) I have mentioned Assam also. As is well-known, before the partition of the country, lot of fish was coming to the Calcutta market from the eastern parts of Bengal, that is, what is now in Pakistan. As a result of Pakistan, this normal activity has been interrupted. Even after 1965, Pakisthani fish was coming into the Calcutta markets. The figures which are with me indicate that the figures are 14,000 tonnes in 1960-61, 16,000 tonnes in 1961-62, 28,000 tonnes in 1962-63 and 26,000 tonnes in 1963-64. So, it was progressively going up. But then came the Indo-Pakistani conflict, and this flow of Pakistani fish is no longer there.

Later on, then the conflict ended, a number of hon. Members raised the point and asked: Why are you not trying to have trade relationship with Pakistan at least in the field of fish? I submitted a number of times on the floor of the House that as far as the Government of India is concerned, we have no difficulty whatsoever. Some hon. Members made an suggestion saying 'Why not offer coal to East Pakistan in exchange of fish?' Sir, that also we are trying to explore and at the moment negotiations are on with the Pakistan Government. And, I hope, the Pakistan Government would be good enough to restore normal trade relations, at least, in the matter of fish, even if it is not possible to go into whole gamut of the entire trade relations.

Then, Sir, I have one more point to submit to the House. I hope the hon. Member will appreciate the fact that as far as West Bengal and Calcutta are concerned and even Assam is concerned, Inland Fishing is an important subject from the point of view of Bengal population and even Assam population. But, as is well-known, Constitutionally, the development of Inland

Fishing is a State subject and the State Governments have naturally to take steps to organise and to develop fisheries.

As far as the Centre is concerned, we can only step in by giving aid by way of financial assistance and so on. But I do not know why certain things happened; I hope Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu will be in a position to tell me about this. Our pattern of assistance with regard to Fisheries development has been the same throughout the country—whether it is Maharashtra or Tamilnadu or Kerala or West Bengal or Assam. It is the same. But what has been the result? I would mention the figures which I have with me about the number of mechanised boats that are introduced in various States. The figures are, 1557 in Kerala; 2454 in Maharashtra; 1778 in Gujarat and 1104 in Tamilnadu. I can quote the figure of West Bengal and it is only 10. In Orissa, it is 97. Again it is the same sad story. Why it should be so, I am putting it to you. I would like to have suggestions from hon. Members which will guide the Ministry in its activities. The pattern of assistance has been uniform throughout the country.

SHRI S. KUNDU: It is not so.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: That is not correct, Mr. Kundu.

We are responsible Members, and we should speak really on the basis of facts...

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA: Not a single boat has come up in Assam.

SHRI S. KUNDU: I understand that he is a responsible Minister and he should give the full facts. In the other States, the infra-structure had been built up and then trawlers went. So, how does he say that there has been a uniform pattern of distribution? If he distributes roses in a desert, the roses will not blossom there.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I would repeat that the pattern of Central assistance has been the same for all States.

SHRI S. KUNDU: It is meaningless.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: But

somehow or the other, as has been rightly referred to in the report of the Estimates Committee, on the eastern coast, the development has not taken place despite this.

Recently, there was a meeting of the Central Board of Fisheries at Cochin, where I was present throughout, and where this matter attracted our attention.

SHRI P. K. DEO: What about a fishing harbour at Paradip? We want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister.

SHRI S. KUNDU: 30 crores of fish are being exported from Cochin, and the hon. Minister is very happy about it. But is Cochin the only place where fish could be developed?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Even the Central Board of Fisheries has recommended that depth study should be made into the reasons why in the eastern coast, fisheries have not been developed. So far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, however, it has come up very well there, and Tamil Nadu is very much developed, and I am glad that the Tamil Nadu is taking a lot of interest in the development of fisheries, but in Orissa, West Bengal and Assam, things are not very happy.

It would be of interest to my hon. friend to know that whereas a State like Kerala could provide 4 per cent out of its total budget outlay for fisheries, West Bengal despite pressure from us has provided only 4 per cent for this purpose. I would not like to go into the controversial aspects of the matter... ..

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: I have been taken as a pleni-potentiary of the U.F. Government.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Prawns in the Sunderbads area are the best in the world...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may resume his seat. I am not allowing any interruptions, because I want that the hon. Minister should finish his reply and we should go on to the next item. If he persists, then his observation will not go on record.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The Central Government is agreed on the importance of the development of fisheries internally so as to make available cheap fish to the people of West Bengal and Assam and for our fish eating population in the country. Therefore, you will see that whereas in the Third Plan we had provided only Rs. 28 crores for development of fisheries, in the Fourth Plan, it has been increased almost thrice to about Rs. 84 crores.

Although development of inland fisheries is a State subject, so far as Bengal is concerned, we have taken special steps for development of the Sunderbans. The Sunderbans is a vast area. Whereas in no other State have taken up fisheries development yet, in West Bengal, we have taken it up as a Central Project; in view of the special situation obtaining in West Bengal, we have taken up the development of the Sunderbans as a Central project, and we are going to spend about Rs. 50 lakhs during the next four years for this purpose.

Some hon. Members had referred to the need for the development of the Chilka lake, so as to make available Chilka fish to the population in Orissa and Calcutta. We have only seven refrigerator vans in our country, but we have provided 4 to the Chilka fisheries, so that fish could be taken from the Chilka lake to Calcutta and West Bengal markets. We are going to have one more in the near future. My hon. friend had referred to the development of the Roachawk harbour.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : 40 per cent of the Calcutta supply was coming from the fisheries from the 24 Parganas. But all those fisheries have been looted, and now they have turned bare. May I know what steps Government are going to take to redevelop those fisheries there ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I am afraid my hon. friend had not properly listened to my observations. I do concede the point that disturbed conditions in West Bengal are coming in the way of development of fisheries. So far as Roachawk is concerned, I hope that within a month or two, the final sanction would be received and it would be possible to take up the activities there.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : It has been pending with the Finance Ministry for the last four months.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The hon. member has made some suggestions about Namkhana harbour.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : When are they going to commence work in Roachawk? What they do between themselves and the Finance Ministry is an internal arrangement

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It would not be correct to say that there has been no increase in the production of inland fisheries in W.Bengal. During the last 10-15 years there has been an increase to the tune of almost 80-90 per cent. But if the law and order situation is better we are prepared to help by way of credit and central assistance. If West Bengal wants to enlarge its plan of fisheries, I am prepared to include that and see what can be done from the Centre to help West Bengal.

In regard to Assam, on the question of the Brahmaputra development the Assam Government must take some steps. Then the Centre will play its role in helping Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up the next item-Discussion regarding Statehood for Delhi. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta.

17.16 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : DEMAND FOR STATEHOOD FOR DELHI

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : सभापति जी, यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि दिल्ली के हर एक राजनैतिक दल एक स्वर से यह माँग कर रहे हैं कि दिल्ली को पूरे राज्य का दर्जा दिया जाय लेकिन दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस को स्वीकार नहीं करती। 1952 से लेकर के आज तक दिल्ली के ढाँचे में तीन बार परिवर्तन किया जा चुका है। पहले यहाँ पर पार्ट (सी) स्टेट को प्रोसेम्बली थी