

being charged more for the seeds than what they give for the grains.

MR. SPEAKER : Because there is some process; there is something else.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Reverting, for a moment, to the question of this assistance which has been promised by the World Bank, somewhere between four hundred to five hundred crores, according to Press reports, yesterday, in reply to an unstarred question in the House the hon. Minister of State in the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance has said in his reply that this money—that was a specific question about this World Bank assistance—is going to be utilised for purchasing food grains from abroad. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact, because a little while ago he said—what I understood him to say—that this money will be used for various projects. But specifically the Minister of State in the Department of Expenditure has said that this money will be used for purchase of foodgrains from abroad. I want to know, if that is so.

AN HON. MEMBER : Edible oil.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not know about edible oil. I want to know about the foodgrains, whether the sources from which this purchase is to be made have also been laid down or agreed upon and if so, he may give us some details about them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Now Bofors is also included.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I do not know what the Minister of State for Expenditure has said in this House. But I can certainly say that at present we have not assessed as to how much we have to purchase from abroad, particularly foodgrains, wheat and not coarse grains and oilseeds. There is some shortage in oilseeds and coarse grains. We may take a decision in future for purchase of it. So far as my Ministry is concerned at present we have not taken any decision.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, although many parts of our country are in the grip of drought, it is Western Rajasthan, the desert areas and the Kutch areas of Gujarat which are worst hit. In view of the seriousness of the situation, will the hon. Minister make arrangements for providing special assistance to the Kutch area of Gujarat and areas like Barmer, Jaisalmer of Rajasthan which are affected by severe drought conditions so that no one dies of hunger in these areas. Secondly, cattle-fodder for Rajasthan used to be supplied from Punjab earlier but now that is also not available. I want to know whether arrangements will be made to supply fodder from other States to prevent deaths of cattle in this State ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have thought of making special arrangements for areas like Jaisalmer, Jodhpur etc. In Rajasthan and the Kutch, Saurashtra etc. areas in Gujarat and some arrangements have already been made. In so far as fodder is concerned, we are trying to get it from wherever it is available and we have been supplying it in areas which have shortage of it. We have made certain arrangements for Rajasthan also. As regards the areas in Gujarat, we are trying to supply fodder from Gujarat itself but in regard to Rajasthan, we have made arrangements for fodder supply from other States besides Punjab.

[English]

Demand to scrap fishing charter policy

*22. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether demands for scrapping of the charter policy of fisheries have been made by many coastal States;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to undertake a review of this policy;

(c) whether any fresh measures are being contemplated by Government to ensure that foreign charter fishing trawlers are removed to at least 100 miles from our coasts; and

(d) if not, what are the problems

being visualised in removing charter fishing vessels to greater distances from the coasts ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the charter terms and conditions, the chartered fishing vessels are required to operate only beyond the restricted notified areas provided in the Rules framed under the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 which are 12 nautical miles on the east coast and 24 nautical miles on the west coast, as a general rule.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Mr. Speaker Sir, May I know from the hon. Minister what are the major countries with whom we have entered into an agreement or the Indian Fishing Companies have entered into an agreement. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister during the Seventh Five Year Plan how much amount of catches of fish we have got so far and how much amount we have got by way of foreign exchange from these foreign countries ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Government of India has not entered into any agreement with any foreign country. It is the individual entrepreneurs who want to import these trawlers have entered into an agreement and at present from Australia, Mexico and Netherlands these are the countries from where the trawlers are purchased by the individual entrepreneurs.

So far the amount earned by way of foreign exchange is concerned, we have earned during the year 1983 : 21.5 lakhs US dollars; 1984 : 7.44 US dollars ; 1985 : 6.83 US dollars; 1986 : 10.51 US dollars and 1987 : 6.54 US dollars.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : As per the Maritime Zones of India Act, 1981

and under the Rules, we have to encourage the fishing market and to train the fishermen. Under this Agreement, we have to train the fishermen on the fishing boats and there is also a provision to transfer the most sophisticated technology. Are we giving training to the fishermen for deep fishing to have a good catch ? May I know from the Hon. Minister as to how many companies are there in India which are giving training to such persons ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : At present 12 companies and public undertakings are operating the trawlers in our waters. 28 trawler vessels are actually under operation.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : The reply of the Minister is not as innocuous as it seems to be. There is a general feeling that there is a big scandal behind the entire policy of the Government. On the pre text of the training smaller fishermen, permission to charter foreign trawlers is given to some companies. Actually the chartering is given back to foreign companies on private basis who virtually get the fishing rights in our waters poach into our territory with small fishing vessels because your fishing right is upto 200 miles from the coast. Why do you not give permission to fish beyond 100 miles ? You say that the limit is 10 or 12 nautical miles. Ultimately what happens is that on the pretext of these small fishermen who are actually employed on daily wage basis, it is these big companies who get these trawlers back on private basis from the people who get licence from our Government, for chartering and make money out of it. I would demand that an enquiry be set up to see that this policy is reviewed and that this kind of mishandling of the policy by interested parties is stopped.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : For the information of the hon. Member, this policy was under review from 1985 itself. In December 1986 we have formulated a new policy of joint venture where Indian and foreign companies will jointly operate in our waters. Chartering policy is now phased out. In fact, I said that 28 trawlers are operating. They will be completing their term every year and by

1989 latest their charter will be over. The charter permit of the last trawler whichever it may be, will expire by 1989 and then there will be no chartering at all. Then the only policy which will remain in existence is the joint venture policy where the Indian partners will have majority of shares i.e. and 60% and 40% of the shares will be held by foreign entrepreneurs.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : We are inclined to think that Indian partnership is dummy partnership. Whatever catch is obtained on the high seas, it is not shown per vessel which are operating in the joint venture scheme. They do not come to the shore and whatever they say we have to believe them. There is a lot of poaching by Chinese and other foreign vessels on the eastern coast. The hon. Minister has mentioned that we are having these operational limits of 24 nautical miles from the western coast and 12 nautical miles from the eastern coast. I would like to know from which place this distance is measured. Is it measured from Madras or Bhubneswar or is it measured from Andamans and Nicobar Islands ?

SHRI YOGENRA MAKWANA : The hon. Member is not correct when he says that the poaching is done by foreign vessels. Earlier they were doing it. Now our coast guards are watching and guarding our coast and waters. Wherever there are poachers they are apprehended. Cases are launched against them and their trawlers are seized. There are number of provisions under the Maritime Zone of India Act, 1981 which safeguard the interests of our local fishermen. I would like to give some of the provisions :

- (i) Chartered vessels can operate only beyond 24 nautical miles in the West coast and twelve nautical miles in the east coast as a general rule, subject to certain further restrictions. Certain areas both on the east and West coast have been excluded from the point of view of the operation of chartered vessels altogether. There are certain areas which are totally restricted.

- (ii) The charterers are to post at least 20 per cent of the Indian crew on board the vessels as trainees. This includes one additional Skipper, one Engineer and one Radio Officer. The employment of foreign crew is subject to clearance by the Ministry of Home Affairs from security angle.

- (iii) Chartered vessels are to report for mandatory call, at the end of 45 days of fishing, to the nearest port.

So, there are number of such provisions.

MR. SPEAKER : Lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : They have to make mandatory call. They have to be in constant touch with the Coast Guard.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I want your protection before I ask the question. This is the fifth time I am asking the question and every time "matter is under consideration" was the reply. I expect that this time the reply will be "Matter is under active consideration".

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Ministers cannot be inconsistent, Sir.....
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, is it not a fact that as far as fishing on the western coast is concerned, there are some fishers who are having fishing with low mechanised boats and some are having fishing with heavy mechanised boats with greater horse power of 150? It is surprising that those fishermen who are using small vessels with less than 150 H.P., are not at all given excise duty concession and those fishermen who are using boats with higher capacity of more than 150 I.P. are only given the concession. So, I would like to know whether he will reverse this policy and see that fishermen with small mechanised boats are also given the concessions. His predecessor had assured to consider and the entire House was one on this. On one occasion the Prime Minister

had said: "The Finance Minister is sitting here. Please ask him the question directly." So, I had asked him in the presence of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister blessed, but ultimately nothing happened. So, will he give some positive reply to this question?

MR. SPEAKER : Can you bless it now ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, it is very difficult for me to give a positive reply to the hon. Member. I can certainly say that we will.....
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, is he in charge of giving only negative reply ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Not negative but it is not in my control. It is under the control of the Finance Ministry. I can request the Finance Minister, I can persuade them and we can try for that (Interruptions). The only reply I can give to the hon. Member is that we will try our best to examine this issue in the best interest of the fishermen.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, the same reply is given. I will send you copies of five replies of the five Ministers. All are identical. Minister changed but the reply remained the same.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : He will transmit to the Finance Ministry...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The reply is consistent.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fishing industry on the west coast and especially off the coast of Kerala were the worst sufferers in this country because we were not able to demarcate the resources for shrimps and were furthermore not able to protect those resources adequately. The result today is that the sufferers are the small and the big fishing companies of Kerala. A similar situation is arising on the east coast. Vizag on the coast of Andhra is experiencing what Kerala started experiencing twenty years ago. May I know from the hon. Minister that when an expert study team was

constituted to find out the resources and the utilisation of those resources by chartered boats, what was the number of shrimp trawlers that the country required for doing shrimping throughout the Indian coasts? Is the number fixed to only two hundred? Is two hundred enough to shrimp all along the Indian coasts? If the number is enough, what steps is the Government taking to see that more shipping boats do not come in, and if the number is not enough, what incentives is the Government thinking of giving to the indigenous fishing companies and the indigenous trawlers ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Shrimping is prohibited in the charter vessels. They cannot shrimp and the coast guards are patrolling our waters. If anybody is doing shrimping, then they are apprehended and penalised. So far as the number of vessels which can sustain on our waters is concerned, it is assessed that the potential is 1500. In the fifth Five Year Plan we wanted to create a fleet of 500. The number of vessels fixed by the Expert Committee for shrimping is 202. That is the maximum number of vessels which can sustain in our water for shrimping.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : In the joint venture the foreign countries are collaborating. They take up the responsibility of entire catch. For example, in Maldives because of collaboration, the entire catch is marketed in collaboration to Japan, whereas in our country the condition is not so. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister, as they also going to have joint venture for Lakshadweep, whether he will give a categorical answer here that whatever joint venture you may be having, the marketing part totally will be entrusted to the collaborating country.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : These are all hundred per cent export-oriented trawlers and they have to market outside the country. Now it is for the company to decide—who will market, it, whether the collaborator or they themselves.

Foreign Airlines

*23. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :