

सहकारी समितियों के जरिए दूध को अधि-प्राप्ति करके उसे दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना को सप्लाई कर सकें।

Prawn Cultivation

406. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the coastal farmers during the last three years have shown preference and are switching over from cultivation to lucrative prawn cultivation;

(b) whether Government spend huge sums of money for the construction of bunds for preventing saline water to come in and the cost of maintenance is equally high and is not commensurate with crops grown on these lands;

(c) whether in many coastal States, finding prawn cultivation more profitable, the farmers themselves are cutting the bunds and are allowing the sea water to submerge their field so that prawn can be grown;

(d) if so, whether Government would check bund cutting but encourage prawn cultivation if it is lucrative to the farmers; and

(e) if so, whether any central scheme will be formulated to bring more areas under this new cultivation and the assistance that will be given to coastal States for this purpose during the Sixth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No information is available about the money spent on the construction and maintenance of bunds. However, construction of bunds is being taken up under an FAO project in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal. As regards the cost benefit ratio between the expenditure on bund construction and maintenance and the income from the crops grown, no specific study has been conducted.

(c) and (d). No report has been received by this Ministry in this behalf. However, saline water is allowed to flood fields, wherever feasible, during off-season to take additional crop of prawn and fish. It is for the State Governments to prevent illegal cutting of bunds. It is the policy of the Government to encourage prawn culture which is lucrative to the farmers.

(e) Yes, Sir. Government propose to introduce a Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the Sixth Plan to help coastal States for undertaking prawn and brackishwater fish culture in areas suitable for brackishwater aquaculture. A project with UNDP assistance on coastal engineering is being proposed during the Sixth Plan for Developing brackishwater aquaculture farms.

Commercial Felling of Forest Trees

*407. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government have warned the States against "commercial felling" of forest trees;

(b) if so, their response and what machinery has been set up to keep vigilance in this respect; and

(c) the approximate number of trees felled throughout the country during 1979, 1980 and 1981, due to