

Conflicts Between Katamram Mechanised Boats and Trawlers

*959. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the conflicts between Katamaram mechanised boats and trawlers during fish catch on the seas along the coasts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to settle the conflicts; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for a Central enactment on this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the conflict of interests between the traditional fishermen and small mechanised boat owners on the one hand and small machanised boat owners and large trawler owners on the other.

In Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and the Union Territory of Goa, Daman & Diu protests were lodged and legal cases filed by the operators of small mechanised boats against the provisions which regulated fishing in specified areas by specific types of fishing vessels and gear. In Gujarat, however, protest came from the traditional fishermen and small mechanised boat operators together against fishing in shallow waters by the foreign chartered vessels claiming that their livelihood and income have been adversely affected.

The Government of India commended to all the maritime States and UTs in 1979 a Model Bill for enactment or marine fishing regulation, which would empower them to ear-mark areas of operation for traditional fishermen, mechanised boats and deep sea fishing vessels. The Governments of Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, and

Goa, Daman and Diu have already enacted suitable legislation in this respect. The Central Government have urged upon the remaining maritime States/UTs also to enact similar legislation.

Senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, visited Goa in 1983, to study the grievances of the non-mechanised traditional boat owners. The Central Government have advised the U.T. of Goa, Daman & Diu to acquire speed boats for effective patrolling in the area.

The Government of India have also decided to amend the Rules under the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels), Act, 1981, requiring the chartered foreign fishing vessels to fish only beyond the territorial waters or in areas of more than 40 fathoms depth, whichever is further from the shore.

There is no proposal at present to introduce Central legislation in this regard.

Betel Leaves Development Board

*960. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a Betel Leaves Development Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Betel Leaves Cultivation is on a very limited scale and it does need a separate Board at present.