

of illiterates in the country has increased during this period?

**SHRI D. P. YADAV:** Yes, Sir.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:** Could the Minister supply the figures?

**MR. SPEAKER:** You first asked the question and the Minister said "Yes, Sir". Now you are asking for figures. Do not go too much into the details.

**Agreement for co-operation in Marine and Inland fishing with U.S.S.R.**

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\*185. **SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:**  
**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2995 on 21st August, 1972 regarding the project report on deep sea fishing in Kerala with foreign collaboration and state:

(a) whether the proposed agreement has been signed with the U.S.S.R. for co-operation in the field of Marine and Inland Fishing;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to obtain Fishing Trawlers from U.S.S.R. with a view to developing the export oriented Fishing Industry in Kerala and the steps taken so far; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure availability of some foreign vessels for the deep sea fishing for Kerala before the end of 1973?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):**

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

The proposed Agreement with the Government of U.S.S.R. on Co-operation in the field of Marine and Inland

Fisheries is being negotiated. The requirements of fishing trawlers in the country for development of deep sea fishing at suitable centres in Kerala and other States, are proposed to be met by indigenous production, the balance of trawlers being obtained to the extent feasible from the U.S.S.R. under the proposed Agreement. In the meantime, the broad specifications of the vessels for which demands have been received have been furnished to the U.S.S.R. authorities and the feasibility of obtaining trawlers of the required specifications is being examined.

Immediate requirements of deep sea fishing vessels in the country are proposed to be met by indigenous construction and to the extent necessary, by import. In this context, the feasibility of obtaining vessels on charter from the U.S.S.R. is being examined.

**SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:** In view of the fact that Kerala has prepared a master plan for developing marine products and the Centre has its own plans for developing marine products, will the Government take immediate steps to conclude this agreement, the negotiations for which between U.S.S.R. and India were dragging on for a long time? What are the reasons for this long delay in concluding this agreement?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** We are pursuing with the Soviet Union Government the proposal for entering into an agreement. They sought clarification on a number of points and we also had some difficulties. I think that within the near future it should be possible to come to some agreement.

**SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:** The Minister in his statement has made some reference to trawlers. Our experience is that the indigenous trawlers are not suitable for deep sea fishing off the coast of Kerala. We

have discarded them and some of those trawlers are remaining idle already. Only imported trawlers can be used for deep sea fishing. In view of the fact that the demand for imported trawlers is there, will the Minister take immediate steps to make imported trawlers available to our entrepreneurs?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** Some types of trawlers are indigenously manufactured. Recently, the Kerala Fisheries Corporation has got some imported trawlers. The Soviet Union have expressed inability to supply trawlers because they have already booked orders for the next four or five years. So, we are examining the possibility of chartering some vessels from the Soviet Union. If that does not come through, the suggestion of the hon. Member for exploring imports from elsewhere would be considered.

**SHRI MUHAMMAD KHUDA BUKHSH:** May I know what would be the method of the distribution of trawlers when available from the USSR? Will it be made available to Government or to individuals or to fishing cooperatives?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** The usual procedure is, when it is finalised, a public notification is issued. Naturally we give some preference to Government State Corporations and co-operatives. It is also given to private parties.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** As my friend Mr. Janardhanan said, this proposal is hanging fire for the last 3 years. I am not able to follow what is said in the statement. I would like to know what is the total need of the country, what are the proposals to make indigenous production available, what is the total number of vessels that will be available from the country itself and what is the total number of vessels that will be imported? If it is going to be imported, from which country because....

**MR. SPEAKER:** Don't put so many questions at one time.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** I come from a fishing State and many things are fishy.

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** I have already explained that it is a question of entering into an agreement with a foreign power. The problems are being overcome. In case we came to the conclusion that the possibilities are not there, we will see that State Governments like Kerala are helped in importing it from elsewhere.

**SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:** According to the Experts Committee's report, Sunderbans and the Bay of Bengal are full of fishes. The West Bengal Government have a corporation to exploit this fishing. Will the Central Government make trawlers available to the West Bengal Government for this purpose out of the U.S.S.R. quota?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** Naturally when these proposals are finalised whatever we import and whatever indigenous availability is there, all the facilities will be available to Bengal also; it is not confined to Kerala alone; it is for the country as a whole.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:** In view of the answer given by the Minister that trawlers are not available at the moment from the Soviet Union and efforts will be made to get them from elsewhere, may I know whether the Government will consider the proposals before the Polish Government with regard to supply of trawlers?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** I am sorry I was not clear to the hon. Member. As I said, we are having a proposal to charter about 50 vessels from the Soviet Union. If that also falls through, then we will explore the possibility of importing from elsewhere. At the moment some indigenous vessels are there.

available. If this proposal of chartering does not materialise, that suggestion can be explored.

**Maharashtra Policy regarding Purchase and Sale of Sugar**

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\*186. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:  
SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-  
JHUNWALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government is following a policy with regard to the purchase and sale of sugar which is different from the guidelines formulated and being followed by other States; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). All the State Governments, including the Government of Maharashtra, are following the policy laid down by the Government of India in regard to sugar. Presumably, the hon'ble Members are referring to the distribution of a portion of the free sale sugar at a fixed price in Maharashtra. The State Government have clarified that the sugar factories in Maharashtra voluntarily offered a part of the free sale sugar at an ex-factory price of Rs. 230/- per quintal, exclusive of excise duty, for the months of September, October and November, 1972, and the State Government only arranged for its distribution.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: I reliably understand that sugar production is expected to be around 30 lakh tonnes as compared to last year's production of 37 lakh tonnes. I want to know what action Government propose to take to make available large quantities of sugar at low level throughout the country includ-

ing the State of Maharashtra. What steps do Government propose to take to see that Maharashtra Government also falls in line as per the guidelines given by the Union Government?

PROF. SHER SINGH: It is true, this year the production of sugar was 31.12 lakh tonnes and last year, a year before, it was 37.4 lakh tonnes. This year, as per our new policy, we have taken certain steps for augmenting production of sugar. We are now getting results. In the month of October, our production was more by about 60,000 tonnes and in the month of November also, it is much more than what it was last year. The production is increasing. The Maharashtra Government and other State Governments are following the guidelines.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: I want to know whether the Government have come to grips with the realities by realising the conspicuous fall in sugar production and, if so, whether any scheme has been formulated for paying higher prices to sugarcane growers and also for giving rebates to sugar mills for early production and more production of sugar.

PROF. SHER SINGH: In the policy that was announced on 29th August in this House, we adopted a policy of partial control and, through that policy, it will be possible for sugar mills to pay higher price to sugarcane growers. The minimum statutory price has also been increased. Due to partial control, the mill-owners are in a position to pay higher prices. Actually, they are paying higher prices upto Rs. 12.50 p. in Punjab and Haryana; Rs. 12.25 p. in Western U.P. and Rs. 11.25 in Eastern U.P. and other parts. As far as incentives to mill-owners for early crushing of sugarcane are concerned, we have given some incentives. About Rs. 40 per tonne has been given as rebate in excise duty to produce more than