

will be made to absorb the surplus staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No decision has been taken to wind up the Central Fisheries Corporation. The question of the future of the Corporation is however under consideration.

(b) The Memorandum of Association of the Corporation lists several objectives including deep sea fishing, installation of plants for cold storage and curing and canning of fish. The first objective of the Company as listed in the Memorandum is to "to undertake procurement of fish and aquatic products from various sources in India and in neighbouring and other countries, to make arrangements for their preservation, transportation and storage and to carry on sale of the same either directly or through agents, in wholesale or retail, in any place in India, primarily in Calcutta with a view to ensuring fair price to the producers in India and making it available to the consumers at reasonable rates." The Corporation took up the first objective of procurement of fish from various sources for supply primarily in Calcutta. It also took up development of several reservoirs. It has not extended its activities to other areas of fisheries development.

(c) The West Bengal Government is a share-holder of the Corporation and is represented on the Board of Directors. The Corporation's work has been carried on with co-operation of West Bengal and also of other share-holding States. It has not been found feasible to expand the Corporation's activities further.

(d) Specific arrangements to absorb surplus staff can be worked out only if and when a decision is taken to wind up the Corporation. In the event of the Corporation's closure, however, deputationists will be returned to their parent organizations and direct recruits will be accorded the highest priority for alternative appointments which can be secured for them under the regulations.

Construction of Fisheries Berth at Vishakhapatnam

*762. **SHRI P. C. ADICHAN:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of fisheries berth in the proposed outer harbour of Vishakhapatnam has been under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the estimated cost and details thereof; and

(c) Government's decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) In connection with a scheme of provision of fishing harbours at major ports, for which block provision has been made in the Fourth Five Year Plan in the Central Sector, investigations are being conducted at several ports including Vishakhapatnam.

(b) The port authorities are working on a project report for a fishing harbour in the proposed outer harbour at Vishakhapatnam in consultation with the Ministry of Transport and the State Government. An amount of Rs. 1.50 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Central Government for the investigations and preparation of the project report. The estimated cost and details of the fishing harbour will be available on completion of the report.

(c) After the project report is available, the feasibility of sanctioning a fishing harbour at Vishakhapatnam under the scheme will be examined by the Government.

Contract between Samachar Bharati and Government regarding Disposal of Property

*763. **SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:**
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any contract between Samachar Bharati News Agency and Government that no property of the News Agency should be mortgaged, sold or hypothecated without specific permission of Government;

(b) if so, whether this provision has been violated in large number of cases;