

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 7, 1970/Vaisakha 17  
1892 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### NEW METHOD OF DEEP-SEA FISHING AT MANDAPAM AND ALLEPPY, COCHIN

\*1471. SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new method of fishing programmes has been tried at Mandapam in deep-sea fishing and a peculiar fish has been found which costs Rs. 2,000 per tonne and is very much liked in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether such experiments have been/are being made in Alleppy and Cochin in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND  
COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB  
SHINDE) : (a) to (c). A statement is  
laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. Trawling for deep-sea lobster has been tried off Mandapam by an Indo-Norwegian Project vessel. Frozen lobster tails and lobster meat fetch about Rs. 20,000 and not Rs. 2,000 per tonne in foreign markets.

(b) Trawling in deep water for lobster has been tried from Cape Comorin to Cannanore. Rich grounds have been located particularly off Quilon.

(c) The experimental programme consists of systematic trawling with a fish trawl at a depth of 100—200 fathoms. Surveys made so far have indicated occurrence of a species of deep-sea lobster at certain roughly constant depths. The catch per hour in the lobster grounds located at these depths ranged from 190 to 300 kilogrammes.

SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM : What are the important decisions made at the recent seminar on deep-sea fishing held at Ernakulam and what steps have Government taken on those decisions ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The seminar on deep-sea fishing cannot obviously take decisions. The seminar has made some recommendations and the Government of India is examining those recommendations. We have assured that the Government will attach the highest importance to the recommendations since all experts dealing with deep-sea fishing were represented at the seminar.

SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM : What are the improvements made at Cochin to develop the fishing facilities there specially in deep-sea fishing ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The proposal for constructing a harbour for fishing at Cochin is at a very much advanced stage. Even without that, some trawlers are now operating at Cochin. There are also processing facilities available at Cochin. As is well known to the hon. Member himself, Cochin is one of the centres in the country from which very large quantities of fish are exported all the world over.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : I find from the statement that frozen lobster tails and lobster meat fetch about Rs. 20,000 and not Rs. 2,000 per tonne in foreign markets.

We all know that the export of fish is, of late, picking up and fetching very good amount of foreign exchange. In view of that, I would like to know whether the Government is in a position to considerably improve the catching with regard to this particular deep-sea catching and, if so, what are the measures they have taken. Secondly, I would like to know whether there is any proposal mooted by the Government to shift the research headquarters at Mandapam and locate it at some other place and, if so, why ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** As far as the development of deep-sea fishing is concerned, the Government has very ambitious plans during the next four years. It is proposed to put in about 300 trawlers in the deep-seas and the necessary surveys have been carried out both on the west and east coasts for locating the grounds with rich fishing potential. As far as the other question of shifting some research centre is concerned, I will require notice.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** It is very relevant, Sir. About a week back I gave notice of a question inquiring whether there is any proposal to shift this headquarters because I gathered from some sources that there is such a proposal. That question was disallowed, I was informed by the Ministry through Lok Sabha Secretariat that it is difficult to accept my question. Now the hon. Minister says that if notice is given, he is prepared to accept it. These are two contradictory statements. I want your ruling on this.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Many times short notice questions are not accepted, but when we put them under the rules, sometimes we put them in the general list, they are accepted. That is not a very unusual thing.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** The information given to me by the Agriculture Ministry through the Lok Sabha office was that the Ministry found it difficult to accept my question. That was the reply I got. I am prepared to produce that note. But the Minister says that he is prepared to accept notice.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The difficulty is removed.

**SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :** I would like to know as to what are the recommendations of the Polish team. Has any action been taken on those recommendations? If not, what is the reason?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Various teams from foreign countries which are friendly to us visit our country and do make suggestions from time to time. As to exactly what the recommendations of the Polish team are, I will have to look into. At the moment the information is not available.

**SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :** Sir, it is stated in the answer :

"Trawling in deep water for lobster has been tried from Cape Comorin to Cannanore. Rich grounds have been located particularly off Quilon."

Sir, Kerala has 10% of the coastline of the country and it accounts for 40% of the entire fish catch of the country and 85% of the export of marine products is done from Kerala. Kerala Government has submitted a scheme costing Rs. 306 crores covering a period of 20 years for development of fisheries. In this context may I know from the Minister as to what is the reaction of the Government of India to this master plan submitted by the Kerala Government and secondly, what particular steps are the Government of India taking to develop this lobster catch in this Cape Comorin to Cannanore coastline, particularly in the Quilon coast on commercial basis? New experiments, I think, are taking place. I would like to know what steps Government are taking to catch lobster on commercial basis and when that commercial production will start?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** As I was telling earlier, Government has a very ambitious plan to take deep-sea fishing. It is planned to have 300 trawlers in the next four years. We have also succeeded in producing indigenous

trawlers and orders for 40 trawlers have been placed on indigenous manufacturers. Then we have also a plan to import 30 trawlers. To exploit these grounds Government can only possibly indicate the possible areas and the purpose of survey is to indicate the rich potential of the areas so that the parties who are in the fishing industry can take advantage of it. Even the Kerala Fisheries Corporation can take advantage.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** Sir, only 5% of our deep-sea fishing is at present utilised. I am glad to hear the Minister say that there is an ambitious programme and 300 trawlers likely to be activated in the next 4 years. I would like to refer the Minister to the fact that during the last 1½ years my district has been waiting for one trawler and the trawler which was produced was without staff and, therefore, it was given to the neighbouring district of North Kanara. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister firstly whether the 400 trawlers are going to be produced or imported. Secondly, what arrangements is he going to make to train staff simultaneously because you cannot have trawlers without men?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Sir, the figure I mentioned was not 400, but 300 trawlers and I know the hon. Member has taken lot of interest and he is in correspondence with me also. What are the training arrangements to be made, what are the personnel required.—all these aspects have been looked into. A reference was made by some hon. Member to seminar and this seminar went into all these problems and I am satisfied that the arrangements which we have made we would be in a position by and large to meet the requirements of these developmental activities which are proposed to be taken up.

**SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO :** Fish has a good export possibility. In Andhra area there are abundant deposits of fish. But the Centre has not shown any interest and the development of fisheries in Andhra coast. In the light of this may I know whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have made any proposals to the Cen-

tral Government? If so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

**MR. SPEAKER :** How is this connected with the Kerala question?

**SHRI P. GOPALAN :** I do not know whether Government is aware of the fact that the fishing industry in Kerala is facing a very serious danger and the small entrepreneurs in this field are being pushed out. Tatas have already been allowed to set up a fishing plant in Kerala. Not only Tatas, but Union Carbides which is a foreign monopoly concerned subsidiary of Dupond of USA is allowed to set up another plant in Kerala. Therefore, I would like to know as to what steps Government proposes to take to see that the small entrepreneurs who are responsible for the growth of this industry in Kerala are not pushed out of this field and monopoly interests are not allowed to prosper or grow.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** I have all sympathies regarding the point made by the hon. Member. I hope the hon. Member will appreciate that every small party cannot go into the deep sea because of the risk involved in it. As was mentioned by one of the hon. Members, not even 5% of the deep-sea resources are being exploited in the country. As far as nearer areas are concerned we can possibly reserve those areas for small fishermen and their interest can be protected. But as far as deep-sea fishing is concerned we should encourage small as well as big parties to take to deep-sea fishing. No curb whatsoever is desirable in exploiting wealth in deep seas. Other countries are exploiting the resources from the Indian ocean.

**SHRI P. GOPALAN :** My question has not been answered. Why cannot Government take some initiative in this field and see that monopolies are not allowed to prosper in this field? That is what I want to know from the Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has replied. Next question.