

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** It is true that Shri Ramnivas Mirdha did bring some proposals to the Rajasthan Government but as far as the Government of India is concerned, they have not received any proposal.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Were they submitted to the Government of India or not ?

**SHRI RANGA :** It is a direct and simple question. He says, they were submitted to the Rajasthan Government. Were they submitted to the Government of India or not ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** I have already replied that no direct offer had been received by the Government of India from Israel.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Was the offer sent through Shri Mirdha received by the Government of India or not ? Why should he not say "Yes" or "No" about it ? What is the problem that the has ? Why should he unnecessarily refrain from answering a direct question ? It is a very small question and he is not replying to it.

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** He cannot deny the fact but he can say that he is helpless.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** The Rajasthan Government had some correspondence through Shri Mirdha and otherwise with the Israeli Government but for international relations or for any offer it is the Government of India which is competent to go into the matter and we have not received any direct offer. That is what I have said.

**श्री ओंकारलाल बोहरा :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रश्न यह था कि राजस्थान सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार को इसके बारे में प्रस्ताव भेजा या नहीं। राजस्थान का मरुस्थल हिन्दुस्तान का ही एक भाग है, इस लिए क्या भारत सरकार इस दृष्टि से सोचिगी कि राजस्थान का मरुस्थल भारत का ही मरुस्थल है, इस लिए इस के विकास के लिए न केवल इजराइल, बल्कि अन्य सभी साधनों से प्रयत्न किया जायगा ?

क्या मंत्री महोदय प्रतिज्ञा करेंगे कि वे स्वयं इस में दिलचस्पी ले कर इस काम को करेंगे ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** The hon. Member comes from Rajasthan and I can understand his emotions. All of us, whether it is the Government of India or it is the Rajasthan Government, are jointly responsible for all this but ultimately the implementing machinery is that of the Rajasthan Government. I have already mentioned some of the plans; even in the statement the directions have been mentioned. But the House will appreciate that it is a vast and difficult problem requiring very vast resources. However, the Government is taking up some of the plans for the development of desert areas.

**SHRI M. L. SONDHI :** I am sure, the hon. Minister is aware that it is in the national interest to keep abreast of modern technology for irrigation and desert reclamation where water is stored above or below the surface. In Israel and certain other countries aquifers have been developed; that is, water is stored below the surface. That would avoid earthquakes and all other problems in the context of Koyana. Is the Minister prepared to assure us that this matter of aquifers is engaging his attention ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** This problem is known. Our scientists have also gone into this problem. Taking into consideration the position of Indian economy whether we can afford to have underground tanks, etc. as suggested by the hon. Member, our scientists are studying some of these things. If, under Indian conditions, some of them can be applicable, we will be able to do something on those lines in India too.

**SHRI M. L. SONDHI :** They are not artificial; they are natural underground reservoirs. They will be cheaper.

Financial Assistance to West Bengal for Development of Fish and Increase in its supply

\*633. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance, financial and other given by the Central Government to West Bengal during the last three years for the development of fish culture and for augmenting fish supply for the people; and

(b) the positive results of the assistances given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

#### *Statement*

(a) The assistance given by the Central Government to the West Bengal Government for the development of fish culture and for augmenting fish supply is indicated below :—

#### STATE PLAN I

Year	Quantum of Central Assistance	
	Grant	Loan
1966-67	4.93	3.25
1967-68	15.00	22.50
1968-69	12.40	18.60

#### II *Centrally Sponsored Schemes*

The State Government have been requested from time to time to indicate minor harbours proposed to be developed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of provision of landing and berthing facilities for fishing vessels at minor ports for which bulk provision of over Rs. one crore annually is being made in the Central Budget. The pattern of assistance under this scheme during 1967-68 and 1968-69 was 100% grant. The State Government had proposed construction of a harbour at Namkhana, and this proposal was approved in 1967-68.

#### III *Central Schemes*

(1) Under the Central Scheme of provision of fishing harbours in major

ports, the Central Government sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1.5 lakhs in 1965 for investigations in Haldia. These investigations indicated unsuitability of the site provisionally selected, and the Central Government agreed to investigations at an alternative site at Roychowk.

(ii) In addition to the initial subscription of Rs. 31 lakhs towards the share capital of the Central Fisheries Corporation, of which the primary aim is to supply fish to Calcutta, the Central Government made an additional contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs in 1969, including a loan of Rs. 5 lakhs. A further loan of Rs. 3 lakhs is under issue.

(iii) Experimental work was commenced in 1968 in connection with a pilot scheme for fish culture in reclaimed brackish water swamps for which provision of Rs. 50 lakhs has been earmarked in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(iv) Arrangements have been made to strengthen the Central Government's exploratory fleet to enable more intensive survey of resources being undertaken around the coast. One 105 ft. vessel obtained at a cost of Rs. 30.50 lakhs and two 57 ft. vessels costing Rs. 17.50 lakhs for which orders were placed in the 1968-69 have been earmarked for survey of the northern portion of the Bay of Bengal.

(v) Other important general measures which have taken for collective assistance to marine States are the organisation of deep sea fishing vessel construction in the country and the expansion of arrangements for training of operative of such vessels.

(b) (1) Under Centrally aided State Plan Schemes the Government of West Bengal have taken up several schemes relating to development of derelict fisheries, tank

fisheries in C. D. Blocks, production of fish seed, supply of fisheries regulaites, provision of loan to fish culturists, transport, demonstration, training and welfare of fishermen, Under these schemes about 32 fish farms are in operation, and 12 fish seed farms have been constructed for artificial breeding of fish and rising of fish seed. Two service units are attending to transport and marketing of fish seed. The State Fisheries Development Corporation has taken up intensive development of fisheries in an area of about 1000 acres. Construction of a cold storage at Howrah was completed in November, 1968. Fishermen have been provided with financial assistance for boats, nets, reclamation of tanks etc. Fish seed has been distributed at subsidized rates.

(II) No expenditure on the sanctioned scheme of construction of fishing harbour at Namkhana has been reported by the Government of West Bengal. Some work on the harbour has been proposed to be taken up in February and March, 1970.

(III) (i) The investigations at Roy-chawk have been completed by the Calcutta Port Trust, and plans and estimates for a fishing harbour are being financial.

(ii) The Central Fisheries Corporation has supplied 2229 tonnes of fish to Calcutta. It also took up several water areas for development.

(iii) The experimental studies on brackish water fish culture in reclaimed swamps, if successful, will lead to additional fish production by bringing the vast expanse of the now derelict swamps of the Sunderbans into economic production. Designs for construction of suitable fish farms in this area are being worked out and studies are in progress.

(iv) The 105 ft. Exploratory vessel for which orders were placed in the GDR in 1969 has recently

been received and shortly go into operation. The vessel will be used to locate resources for commercial exploitation.

(v) The Government of West Bengal have not so far placed orders for the 57 ft. vessels, of which twenty two are under construction for the Central Government and eighteen for other marine States against their orders. The Government of West Bengal have also not deputed candidates for training in the operation of deep sea fishing vessels during the last three years.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Sir, if anybody looks at the closely-typed statement, it will look very impressive. But the fact remains that West Bengal is under the grip of an acute shortage of fish supply. There is an acute shortage of fish supply to Calcutta which consumes about 8000 maunds of fish a day. with the partition of the country, the fish supply to Calcutta has become very acute and it has become a national problem. But the Central Government has taken no real steps to remove the shortage that is engulfing the whole of Calcutta and West Bengal. May I ask the hon. Minister how many projects are pending them for final financial sanction and how soon they wish to clear them and give the money ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : All these facts are mentioned in detail in my statement. I am sorry the hon. Member does not appear to have gone through the detailed statement which I have placed on the Table of the House. We would very much like that West Bengal Government takes a little more interest in developing fisheries and from the point of view of development, easy availability is very important which is, unfortunately, not there. I would like to submit that despite our repeated requests from the hon. Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram myself, and even prior to that, to West Bengal Government to spend a little more on that and, to that

extent, the Central assistance will be available, no further progress has been made.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** Why is it that the Central Fisheries Corporation which was formed after the last Indo-Pak conflict has been able to do nothing at all towards improving fish supply except draining the people's money from the public exchequer? What are the reasons? Please give us a little more details about their performance.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** A committee of experts was asked to go into the working of the Central fisheries Corporation. It was found, due to one reason or the other, that the Corporation could not function economically. Then, we made a request to the Government of West Bengal that this Corporation should be taken over by them. Initially, there was some reluctance. But Shri Ajoy Mukerjee, latter on, informed us that they will be willing to take over the Corporation if the Central Government is prepared to extend some financial assistance. We are examining that. We will be glad if the West Bengal Government takes it over and I would like my hon. friend, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu, who would only like to criticise, to persuade the West Bengal Government to take over the Corporation. We will be examining all possibilities of extending financial assistance.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** What are the reasons that the Central Fisheries Corporation has miserably failed except draining a lot of public money? He gives a cook and bull story...*(Interruption)*

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Is not the House aware what are the reasons which are affecting the production and other things in West Bengal? *(Interruption)*

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** According to the statement which has been laid by the hon. Minister on the Table of the House, the Central Fisheries Corporation has, upto now, supplied 2,229 tonnes of fish to Calcutta altogether. As the hon. Minister knows, due to the stoppage of imports from Pakistan from where about 75 to 100 tonnes

of fish used to come to Calcutta every day, there has been a very acute shortage. The performance of the Corporation, according to this statement, would amount to only about 3 weeks' supply, upto now, since the very inception of the Corporation. When they have decided or are thinking in terms of winding up this Corporation altogether, may I know why they have not made any serious attempt to have this corporation carry out the multifarious activities which are stated in the memorandum of association. The articles of association of this corporation say that it will set up a network of canning and cold storage plants, indulge in deep sea and inland fishing and various types of activities. Without doing any of these things why have they decided to wind up the corporation and are passing on the buck to the State Government and say that the State Government should take it over? How are they coping up with this shortage by setting up a corporation which has not carried out its activities at all and in so many years supplied only 2000 tons of fish?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Hon. Member referred to the import of fish from Pakistan. As far as the Government of India is concerned, we have unilaterally removed any restriction on import of fish from Pakistan. But, unfortunately, the Pakistan Government was not prepared to allow import of fish from Pakistan to India. *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** Can't you go and catch fish?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** The main purpose of the Corporation was supply of fish to Calcutta. Naturally, this is a matter in which the West Bengal Government is naturally expected to take more interest and therefore, it is more proper if the West Bengal Government takes up the responsibility of running this Corporation.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** I have asked him a specific question. The memorandum of association of this corporation includes multifarious activities including deep sea fishing, cold storage, etc. Why was none of these things undertaken by the Cor-

poration all these years and the Central Government now say that it is running in loss and so we went to hand it over to the West Bengal Government.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE** : In the articles of association or objects of any corporation they mention a number of activities. But the economic feasibility of each project has to be gone into. The Corporation was competent and it was autonomous and it was competent to take such activities.

**SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI** : May I know whether any assessment has been made as to the shortage of fish being due to certain parties having got the fisheries and denuding the water and absolutely spoiling the fish? This has caused shortage of fish in Calcutta. (*Interruptions*) Secondly I would like to know if the Central Fisheries Corporation is handed over to the West Bengal Government, will the employees be taken care of by the West Bengal Government and they will not lose their jobs.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE** : Naturally when the West Bengal Government takes up the responsibility, the West Bengal Government will take care of and safeguard the interests of the employees.

As far as the first part of her question is concerned, Government have also seen press reports. There has been some forcible occupation.

**SHRI PILOO MODY** : I would like to know whether it is true or not that all the fish in the Bengal sea, big and small, have been scared away by the Communists (*Interruptions*) after they threw the dead bodies of their victims into the sea.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA** : Is it a fact that West Bengal suffers from a shortage of the 77% of the total requirements of fish for the State? Is it also a fact that nearly 12 lakhs acres of land were under cultivation of fish in the form of fisheries and as my hon friend said, some of these were used by some jotdars also as fisheries and is it a

fact also that nearly 10 lakhs acres of these fisheries have been completely looted by the CPM elements.

**श्री ज्योतिर्मय बहु** : मछली वालों का दलाल है ।

**SHRI PILOO MODY** : He cannot make such a statement.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA** : And whether as a result or looting of fish in 10 lakhs acres of fisheries. . . (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : You should ask a straight question Don't involve any party in it.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA** : Everybody knows; it has appeared in the papers every day.

**MR. SPEAKER** : That is very wrong, everything on earth being imputed to the CPM; that is very wrong. I don't like it, That is really a bad thing.

**SHRI SAMAR CUHA** : These are the facts that appeared in the Papers. This appeared almost every day in West Bengal I am not saying something out of my imagination. These reports have appeared in the Press almost every day in West Bengal.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Please come to the question.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA** : I am just putting my question. I went to know whether because of looting of these fisheries the price of fish in West Bengal has shot up to Rs. 10 per kilo and if so, whether the Government is going to take steps in this regard and buying those lands which are being used by the jotdars in the name of fisheries, whether all the fisheries will be recovered from them and fish cultivation undertaken by Government. (*Interruption*) The CPI people know what they have done to the people of West Bengal. They know it very well. In 1967-68 grants to the extent of Rs. 15 lakhs and loans to the extent

of Rs. 22.5 lakhs were given; it has since been reduced now to Rs. 12.40 lakhs grants and Rs. 18.69 lakhs loans. Why has this quantum of grants and loans been reduced?

AN HON. MEMBER : Call C. I. A. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : They are looting all fisheries. They are selling fish at Rs. 12 per kilo.

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I submit, Sir, that C.I.A. is brought in here for everything. It has become nuisance in the House,—bringing in C.I.A. for everything. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is very simple question. It is a simple question asking about shortage of fish. Where does CIA and CMP come in here? How do so many other things come in here? (*Interruption*)

SHRI PILOO MODY : CPM is responsible for this state of affairs.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : So far as fishing in West Bengal is concerned, it is a matter of concern and importance and the fishing grounds should be properly exploited, but then, Sir, forcible occupation is bound to retard to some extent normal fishing and to my mind... (*Interruption*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : During 20 years of Congress rule you have created this situation (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon Member may kindly resum his seat. The only good thing about him is, he is obeying the Chair. (*Interruption*)

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : For development of fishing mechanisation and introduction of mechanised trawlers forma-

tion of Cooperatives etc. are very important. Government of India have taken steps in this regard and Shri Jagjivan Ram wrote to the West Bengal Government saying that Government of India would be prepared to support any financial assistance or loan through CFC so that large-scale programme of mechanisation of fishing could be taken up. But, unfortunately, things are moving very slowly in West Bengal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : The Estimates Committee report clearly says that the Central Government sabotaged fishing enterprises in West Bengal and have passed strictures on the Central Government. What is the hon. Minister talking about? The Estimates Committee had passed strictures on the Central Government in this regard.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have still to complete my answer. During the Third Five year Plan, some big trawlers were made available to West Bengal for deep-sea fishing. But for some reason or the other, they discontinued their use, and I think it is for the West Bengal to explain it; they informed the Government of India that the Government of West Bengal was no longer in a position to operate those trawlers.

The other thing is the development of minor harbours. As far as this is concerned, the Government of India are prepared to assist the West Bengal Government for the development of minor harbours. We have received one big vessel from East Germany for investigation, and we are making it available for exploring and investigating fisheries potential in the southern portion of the Bay of Bengal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : For 20 years, the Central Government had been sabotaging it. But now he is shedding crocodile tears.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As far as the financial aspect to which Shri Samar Guha had referred is concerned, I am sorry to say that from 1966 onwards the

financial assistance from the Centre was dependent upon the expenditure of the West Bengal Government. Unfortunately, the West Bengal Government did not give enough priority to the development of fisheries. For instance, the Kerala Government spent almost 19 per cent of the State Plan outlay on development of fisheries, whereas West Bengal spent only 2 to 3 per cent of the Plan outlay. The Central assistance was related to the expenditure actually incurred by the West Bengal Government. Naturally, more assistance could not flow from the Centre to West Bengal. But, henceforth, I am prepared to say on behalf of my Ministry and the Government of India that it would be our effort and endeavour to see that the West Bengal Government are helped and assisted to the maximum extent possible. But, ultimately, it is a State subject and they have to take up these activities.

**SHRI S. M. SOLANKI :** May I know whether the fish available on the West Bengal coast are fatter and longer and of better quality than the fish available from Gujarat. The Bengalis are, no doubt, fish-eaters, and we in Gujarat may not be fish-eaters. But looking to the quality of fish may I know whether the Central Government will give financial assistance not only to West Bengal but to Gujarat and other States also ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** There is no question of discrimination between State and State as far as the development of agriculture or fisheries is concerned. After the Fourth Plan has started, since last year, block grants are being advanced to the State Governments. It is for the State Government to decide how much they should spend on particular sectors of the economy. The West Bengal Government, the Gujarat Government or any other Government is at liberty to spend out of the Plan finance as much as they want on particular sectors.

**SHRI S. M. SOLANKI :** He has not answered my question about the quality of fish. May I know whether the quality of fish on the West Bengal coast is better than that in Gujarat coast, on account of which Shri Joytirmoy Basu is asking for more

financial assistance to the West Bengal Government ?

**DR. RANEN SEN:** May I know whether it is a fact that when the Central Fisheries Corporation was set up by the Government of India, one of the ideas was to procure fish from other parts of India. If so, may I know whether it is a fact that by abolition of the Central Fisheries Corporation, private firms or private corporations are being encouraged to procure fish and export it to Calcutta and other places in West Bengal, and if so, why Government have taken such a step, instead of strengthening and developing the fisheries corporation.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** The Government of India have no intention of promoting the cause of the private sector in the fishing industry at the cost of the Central Fisheries Corporation. I would like to make this submission emphatically before the House.

As far as the Central Fisheries Corporation is concerned, it was supposed to procure fish from other State, and it had been procuring from some other States. But the other States also said that the demand in their areas was growing and they could not afford to export more fish. Fish was going to Calcutta from UP and Orissa also, and there was some problem in this regard. But as I have already said, I wish the West Bengal Government take over the corporation and try to operate it as efficient a manner as possible so that it may become an important instrument for procuring fish for the Calcutta city.

**श्री अब्दुल गनी डार :** मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बताया कि फिश के इम्पोर्ट पर, जोकि पाकिस्तान से आती है, कोई पाबन्दी नहीं लगी है इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान वालों ने, जो लाखों टन फिश भेजते थे उसका एक्सपोर्ट कब से बन्द किया, क्यों किया और उसकी बजह क्या हुई ? दूसरी बात यह है कि अगर बंगाल गवर्नमेंट उसका कोई इन्तजाम नहीं कर पाई तो क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट इन्तजाम करके अपनी कश्तियाँ बनायेगी जिनसे लाखों

दन फिश हासिल हो सके और बंगाल के अलावा सारे देश को उसका फायदा पहुंचे ?

field in a big way to see that fish could be procured from other States...

**SHRI NATH PAI :** Is this an Assembly of fish-mongers? Please go on to the next question.

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI :**.....Since the State is now under President's rule, will the hon. Minister give us an assurance that the activities of the Central Fisheries Corporation will not be stepped down, but an attempt will be made to strengthen their activities with the help of the State Government so that the shortage could be filled up and enough fish could be given to the people of West Bengal to consume ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Even if President's rule is there, my request to the West Bengal Administration is that they should take over the corporation and run it.

**SHRI RANDHIR SINGH :** This House is not a fish market, Let us go on to the next question.

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA :** On a point of order. You yourself had suggested that we should cover more questions, but on this fish question you have spent nearly 30 minutes.

समाचार पत्रों की मलकियत

\*634. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण और संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि लखनऊ में गत 3 फरवरी को हुए उत्तर प्रदेश श्रमजीवी पत्रकार सम्मेलन में उक्त पत्रकारों के संघ के अध्यक्ष श्री एस० सी० काला ने समाचारपत्रों की मलकियत में आमूल परिवर्तन करने के लिए संउद द्वारा एक विधान पारित कराये जाने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया था ;

[عبدنی ڈار - منتری جوڑے نے ایجی بتایا کہ فن کے امپورٹ پر جو کہ پاکستان سے آتی ہے کوئی پابندی نہیں لگی ہے اس لئے میں جانا چاہتا ہوں کہ پاکستان والوں نے جو لاکھوں ٹن فیش بھیجتے تھے اس کا ایک سیورٹ کب سے بند کیا۔ کیوں کیا اور اس کی وجہ کیا ہوئی۔ دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ اگر بنگال گورنمنٹ اس کا کوئی انتظام نہیں کر پائی تو کیا سینٹرل گورنمنٹ انتظام کر کے اپنی کشتیاں بنا لے گی جن سے لاکھوں ٹن فیش حاصل ہو سکے اور بنگال کے علاوہ سارے دیش کو اس کا فائدہ پہنچنے - ]

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** How can I say when Pakistan stopped exports to India ?

श्री अब्दुल गनी डार : इन्होंने यह जवाब नहीं दिया कि कब से बन्द किया, क्यों बन्द किया और अगर बंगाल गवर्नमेंट उसका इन्तजाम नहीं करती है तो क्या सेन्द्रल गवर्नमेंट उसका इन्तजाम करेगी ?

[عبدنی ڈار - انھوں نے یہ جواب نہیں دیا کہ کب سے بند کیا۔ کیوں بند کیا اور اگر بنگال گورنمنٹ اس کا انتظام نہیں کرتی ہے تو کیا سینٹرل گورنمنٹ اس کا انتظام کرے گی - ]

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Fish is not coming from there for the last few years. As for the exact date etc. I would require notice.

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI :** It is admitted that fish is the main food for Bengalis, and due to the stoppage of import of fish from Pakistan, there has been a colossal shortage of fish there. The Central Fisheries Corporation entered the