

several cooperative agencies at the State level, district level and tehsil level for financing the farmers. Every agency charges 3 percent interest which ultimately comes to 20 to 24 percent to the farmers. I want to know why do you not set up a single agency which may finance the farmers directly? That way he will have to pay only 4 or 5 percent interest. Have you any such proposal in mind?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
The cooperative banks are at the rural level.

[*English*]

NABARD is an apex bank which does refinancing.

[*Translation*]

They finance the farmers directly. So far as rate of interest is concerned it depends upon the interest which the banks also have to give, for the borrowings which they have to make. For their shares also, they have to pay dividend; for the loans which they raise from higher banks and other banks and from NABARD they have to pay the interest; and then they have to add certain charges. That makes the rate of interest.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 21 and 22 November the hon. Speaker, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, and myself toured Sikar and Jhunjhunu. The farmers' condition is miserable there and they are reeling under the grip of famine. In view of the condition of the farmers, will the hon. Minister provide them interest-free loan?

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as drought is concerned, Government of India is sanctioning a ceiling of expenditure, to the State Government. So far as interest-free loans are concerned, it is a suggestion.

Decline in Shrimp catch on Coast of Andhra Pradesh

*289. **SHRI T. BALA GOUD :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that shrimp catch has fallen this year, off the coast of Andhra Pradesh; if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(b) whether Government have monitored the extent of the fall in shrimp landings from July, 1986 as compared to the corresponding period last year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh there is no decline in shrimp catch off the coast of Andhra Pradesh during this year. The catch during 1985-86 is 10,506 tonnes as compared to 8,887 tonnes during 1984-85.

(b) and (c). Information available also indicate that there has been no fall in shrimp catch during the season beginning from July 1986 as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The catch per day of small mechanised boats are reported to be 85-150 Kgs. in July-September 1986. During the same period the catch per voyage of the deep sea fishing vessels operating from Visakhapatnam was 5-6 tonnes of shrimp as compared to 4-5 tonnes during the corresponding period of 1985.

SHRI T. BALA GOUD : What is the target for the year 1986-87?

Is there any chance for improvement; if so, the details thereof?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The target of fish production in the Seventh Plan is 34 lakh tonnes—20 lakh tonnes from marine fish and 14 lakh tonnes from inland fishery. There is ample chance for improvement in the catch of the fish.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Minister has given a reply saying that there was no decline of catch in the Andhra Pradesh Coast

last year. I agree with him. Is it a fact that our catch is declining over the years because of the low catch in the western coastal area, and especially in the case of shrimp, there is a depletion of resources over the last two years. In view of that, has his Ministry got any programme of conservation of resources and better resource management?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I agree with the Professor so far as the conservation of the resources are concerned; we are not giving permits for the trawlers which are only catching prawns. So far as other resources are concerned, we have got good potential.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Do you agree that there is a depletion of resources in the western coast?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Yes; so far as Kerala is concerned, it is right; there is a decline in the landings of prawn.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : Regarding the catch of shrimp, it is usually the big trawler owners who are catching all the shrimp; and the small catamaran owners and boat men are not able to catch any shrimp because big boat men are sweeping away all the catch. Will the hon. Minister see and let us know the figures relating to the catch of shrimp by the small boat men owners? What steps will be taken to protect their interest?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : For protecting interest of small fishermen, we have fixed the area and the area is deep sea; trawlers can fish beyond 12 nautical miles in east coast and 24 nautical miles in the west coast.

Recognition of Agencies Supplying Work Force

*291. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any statutory rule, order or general practice to recognise private agencies engaged in supplying work force to Government or semi-Government Corporations ;etc.

(b) if so, the names of such agencies^s recognised in Maharashtra; and

(c) what is the position and role of such agencies vis-a-vis the Employment Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir., However, as per the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 the Licensing Officers are appointed by the appropriate Government for issuing Licenses to contractors authorising them to undertake or execute work through contract labour in accordance with the licences issued to them.

(c) There is no role of the Employment Exchanges in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, contract labour is exploited everywhere. Keeping in view this aspect, it has been decided to abolish contract labour. Contract labour is always exploited whether it is the private sector or public sector. On the one hand the Government preaches that private sector should abolish contract labour system and on the other hand, contract labour system is encouraged and the contract labourers are exploited in public sector.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the norms for the licensing officer, who selects the contract labour, to issue licence to the contractor so that it is ensured that the poor labour is not exploited ?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : First of all, there has not been a decision to abolish the contract labour as such. In fact, the Act is known as the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act. So, there is no decision of the Government for totally abolishing contract labour.

Secondly, on the point of exploitation, well, we do get complaints here and there but whenever specific complaints come we inquire into them and ask the State Governments to look into the cases where the