

ducing more and they are able to compete in the world market. But our Indian farmers are notable to compete with Guatemala or the world market. What steps have you taken with regard to black pepper and also cardamom in order to increase production per yield? Have you fixed the minimum price with regard to cardamom and black pepper?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): The hon. member has raised a very valid question. I had the privilege of having a review meeting in the field of spices also a few days ago and we discussed that in some depth the productivity aspect of the spices, pepper, cardamom and all that. In the Seventh Five Year Plan we have many schemes for establishment of model gardens for high yielding pepper variety, distribution input kits and sprayers to small and marginal farmers for increasing pepper production, field demonstration of pepper, roots pertaining to high yielding pepper variety. Similarly, we have a scheme in the 7th Plan for spices also including cardamom. I agree that the productivity here in India is only 500 kg compared to Malaysia who are having 1575 kg. It is a sort of inter-culture; it is not just one crop; it is a mixture of crops. Therefore this yield has to be taken in the overall context. But I may assure the hon. member that we will take all necessary steps so that we can also increase productivity per hectare as suggested by the hon. member in cooperation with the Agriculture Department.

Tiger prawn hatcheries by MPEDA

*269. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority propose to set up two massive tiger prawn commercial hatcheries to raise Sixty Five million larvae, as part

of its strategy for boosting prawn culture in the country; and

(b) if so, the sites selected and funds allocated, State-wise for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. MPEDA is establishing two prawn hatcheries, one each in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to produce 25 million and 40 million prawn larvae per annum respectively.

(b) The site in Orissa has been selected at Gopalpur. In Andhra Pradesh, the site has been selected at Mangamaripetta near Vishakapatnam. The estimated total cost spreading over a period of 4 years for implementing the projects are Rs. 256.49 lakhs for Orissa hatchery and Rs. 295.27 lakhs for Andhra hatchery.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: I would like to know about the amount of foreign exchange earned last year from the export of shrimps which are also called tiger prawn? Has the Indian Council of Agricultural Research formulated any scheme in this regard for the next two or three years?

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: In so far as shrimps exports are concerned, I would like to inform the hon. member that in 1986-87 we have earned a value of Rs. 375.93 crores out of shrimps only and the quantity exported was 49.203 tonnes. In regard to increasing production of prawn, since the land has become very limited on ports, that is why shrimps export is going down in terms of value, not in terms of value realisation. We have taken several steps: one of them I have already stated earlier is to have the hatcheries; and then with the help of the State Government we have taken up brackish water prawn farming programme, sweet water prawn farming programme, and we hope we can

implement all these programmes. Our production of prawn will further increase.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is in the process of evolving a new scheme under which shrimps are likely to be produced successfully in paddy fields also. In this regard tests have also been carried out at certain places. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the results of the tests undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and whether Government propose to under take further production of shrimps in paddy fields?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Though shrimps are often produced in paddy fields along the sea shore in West Bengal, yet the Government has not formulated any programme in this regard. We have received reports from not only one Department but from many Departments and we have been drawing their attention through the State Governments that they should make available more and more land under the Land Ceiling Laws so that Back-water Prawn Farming Programme could be undertaken.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: The hon. Minister himself is saying that the country is earning about Rs. 377 crores by way of export of this tiger prawn and other marine products. This clearly indicates that there is also ample opportunity to earn more and more hundreds of crores of rupees and it is said that the per acre earnings may be more than a lakh of rupees which is many times more than what usually the farmer gets from one acre of any other crop in this country, and in one of the question it is given that—though it may not be right—in Qn. 275, as the trade balance is a major problem, or foreign exchange is a problem, some honourable colleague of ours want to know whether the Government has been under-selling cotton textiles only to earn foreign exchange. If this were to be the importance of foreign exchange, an

amount of Rs. 295 lakhs—lakhs only, not crores—Andhra Pradesh which has got ample potential to earn foreign exchange by way of raising the hatcheries of tiger prawns, will the hon. Minister think in terms of encouraging private entrepreneurs also apart from the State Governments to go ahead with more and more hatcheries on liberal, less rate of interest not over a period of four years, but in the coming year?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: In so far as the hatchery is concerned, I have already stated that private entrepreneurs in the usual manner by obtaining the licence can go to the field and the cooperation will be given. In so far as the MPEDA is concerned, it is the nodal agency for the export of our marine products, they consider it very important and necessary to run if we have some project of prawn hatchery and it should be done on a large scale. That is why we have chosen Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and we are thinking in terms of expanding investigations also. In so far as the private sectors are concerned, there are provisions for help from MPEDA may be big or small, we will cooperate and we will give all possible help.

SHRI V. SOBHANADRESWARA RAO: As the Minister has mentioned, there is ample opportunity to increase the production and in this connection I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will evolve suitable schemes for increase of production of inland and backwater prawn culture for the small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections along the coastal line to meet a part of the expenditure to develop the tanks by way of subsidy in order to encourage all those farmers to go in farm prawn culture. Also, I would like to know from the Minister what steps Government has taken to earn more foreign exchange by means of value added exports of prawns.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Yes, we are giving assistance to all categories whether it is small fisherman or big, or cooperatives and others. In so far as earning of foreign exchange is concerned, subsidy on

account of development for new prawn farms, small or big, up to 50 per cent of the capital cost or Rs. 7,500 per hectare whichever is less subject to a maximum of Rs. 75,000 per unit is given. In so far as prawn farm development programme is concerned, we are giving much more emphasis on it. That is why we are having more freezing plants for the individual plants, which is accepted in the Japanese Market very highly and we are intensifying this programme.

Very recently our hon. Minister Shri Narayan Dattji had two rounds of review meetings and we have drawn up a new strategy also, going by State to State export zone basis to select the sites for prawn export and to encourage them.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. P.M. Sayeed.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED— *Rose*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Is your temper high even today?

[*English*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Yesterday was a bad day for you and me both

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. P.M. Sayeed, is your temper still high or is it normal now?

[*English*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Yesterday, it was a bad day for you and me.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Sir, I talked to Sayeed Bhai yesterday. You may or may not agree the clouds wept throughout the night on account of yesterday's dispute.

MR. SPEAKER: And Sayeed Saheb has starved me for full one year.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I have forgotten all after one night's sleep. Now it is all right.

[*English*]

Sir, the hon. Minister has just now detailed the two places where the hatcheries of Sixty Five million larve is going to be produced. I have been to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The type of Prawn found there are very tasty. Sir, in Andaman groups as well as in Lakshadweep, the land area is of course limited. But, we have unlimited area in the form of lagoons. Nearly one thousand square kilo metre are is there in Lakshadweep and Nicobar Islands. Having this kind of area now only available for lagoon fish cultivation, why don't you explore the possibility of cultivation of this prawn culture in these lagoons?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I would like to inform and explain the hon. Member that we have taken up this matter very recently with vigour to explore the possibility in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and in Lakshadweep also, not only for prawn, but further to exploit Tuna fish as our marine product. So far as the hatcheries are concerned, there are certain criteria, salinity of water is important for this. I would like to inform the hon. Member that we are taking up this matter and we shall look into it. We shall make personal visit there to see that this project comes up

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the construction work implementing this Project is proposed to start and when it is likely to be completed.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, the construction process is just on. We expect it to complete by 1990