

considerable time has also elapsed since the abolition of Zamindari System, but the settlement of the Ganga is still going on with one family. The fishermen of Bhagalpur are not allowed to fish in the Ganga there.

MR. SPEAKER : This has been covered.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : As the hon. Member has said just now, forty persons have been murdered. What action is being taken by the Central Government in this regard ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : It has come to our notice only today.

MR. SPEAKER : It is over. Now next question.

[English]

Import of Fishing Trawlers

*901. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new imported or indigenous fishing boats financed fully or partially by the Shipping Development Finance Corporation (SDFC) or Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) which are likely to join the Indian fleet by the end of 1989; and

(b) the cost of such fishing boats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). A Statement is given below :

Statement

99 Deep Sea Fishing Vessels, 69 financed by SDFC (upto 3.4.87) and 30 financed by Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Ltd. are likely to join the Indian fleet by the end of 1989. The C.I.F. cost price of these vessels (according to source) is as follows :

(i) Imported Vessels

I. Vessels financed through SDFC Loans

1. Australia US \$ 7,70,000 to 7,90,000

2. Netherlands Dutch Guilder 18,54,000

II. Vessels financed through SCICI Loans

3. Australia Rs. 108 lakhs

4. South Korea Rs. 103 lakhs to Rs. 107 lakhs

5. Singapore. Rs. 108 lakhs

6. Japan Rs. 133.5 lakhs

7. U.S.A. Rs. 106 lakhs

8. Netherlands Rs. 133 lakhs

(In the case of SCICI loans, price of imported vessels is indicated in Rupees)

(ii) Indigenous Vessels

In the case of indigenous vessels, the price per trawler ranges from Rs. 90.55 lakhs to Rs. 114 48 lakhs (excluding taxes).

SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is evident from the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House that the fishing boats that are being provided on the Indian coasts are more important than indigenous in spite of indigenous vessels being cheaper and equally good. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is going to take to encourage the indigenous manufacturers so that the vessels can be manufactured in our own shipyards and save foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : Sir, there is already a condition in the scheme under which these trawlers are imported that when two trawlers that are imported one is to be purchased from within the country and 33% of the cost of the vessel is given as subsidy by the Ministry of Surface Transport to the indigenous manufacturers and loan is also given for that purpose. 95% of the cost of the vessel is given now as against the 90% cost given for the imported vessels.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Sir, from the hon. Minister's statement it looks a very good encouragement to the fishing industry

But in actual practice, the difficulty that has been faced by those who want to acquire fishing vessels is only known to them because they have to go through so many formalities. Unfortunately, this industry is divided into many divisions coming under Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance Department of Shipping, Department of Environment and many other Departments. The result is that unless there is a coordinated effort the industry is not going to be successful. We have a very long coast like many countries in the world who are primarily engaged in fishing in the country. Will the hon. Minister consider clubbing all these activities concerning the fisheries and bring them under one Ministry, namely, Ministry of Fishing ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : No doubt, this industry has come under at least three Ministries, as the hon. Member has just now mentioned. But there is close cooperation and coordination between the two Ministries and the Agriculture is a nodal Ministry which is interested in dialogues from time to time as and when difficulties are faced by the trawler industry in regard to fishing

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fisheries are very big potential in the country with the construction of new dams and small tanks like percolation tanks and irrigation tanks. So, keeping that point in view; what my friend, Shri Jadeja has suggested earlier, the Fishing Wing has to get clearance from Environment and other Departments also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider giving more incentives for inland fishing also so that there is more production of fish within the country.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Sir, the question relates to the marine fishing and fishing vessels. But there is already encouragement being given to inland fishery and active fishermen are given several facilities in that connection, long list is there, where we are giving subsidy and facilities to the inland fishermen also. So, there is no dearth of assistance being provided from the Ministry for inland fisheries.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Minister has spelt out the encouragement that it being given to the indigenous fishing

trawlers. I would like to know that out of the total fishing trawlers operating in our coast, how many are indigenously made. It has been reported that economically the medium size trawlers are more advantageous. Are you giving the same assistance to these medium size trawlers which are made in our country ? The trawlers are catching shrimps and are export-oriented. For all other export industries there is oil subsidy given. Are you giving the same subsidy to the trawlers which are catching shrimps and other fishes ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Sir, the trawlers which are just imported for 100 per cent export are given the incentive, and I have just said that 90 per cent loan is given to them and they are given encouragement also. So, there is no dearth of encouragement for the exporters. And for inland fishing and fishermen we have provided many facilities. Fish Farmers' Development Agencies are there, then Brakish Fish Farmers' Development Agency is there, and group accident insurances cheme for active fishermen, then introduction of improved beach landing crafts is also there, modernisation of traditional crafts is provided and 5000 traditional crafts are to be modernised during the Seventh Plan period and about 1700 have already been sanctioned. Then, we have provided national welfare fund for fishermen for providing houses and other facilities and then there is insurance also, as I said earlier and for Fishing Farmers' Agencies and all these things, during the Seventh Five-Year Plan we have provided a large sum of money also that I can spell out.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : How many indigenous trawlers are operating ? You said you are giving encouragement.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Ninety-six are imported and forty-six are indigenous. The total is 142.

[Translation]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the hon. Minister whether the B.M.C. Engines imported for trawlers are sold in black market for some other purposes in a large number and whether these engines attract no import duty while this duty is levied on jeeps and cars ? Is the hon. Minister aware of it ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Whenever such complaint is received, action is taken, but so far no such complaint has been received.

[*English*]

Realisation of Interest on Agricultural Cooperatives Advances

*905. **SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a national policy is proposed to be adopted to further liberalise recovery of agricultural cooperative's advances in view of the severe drought conditions in several States;

(b) whether realisation of interest on such advances is proposed to be adjusted against fresh advances; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken to give seeds to farmers on "Taccavi"

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (c). In view of recurrent and severe drought condition Government have announced several essential concessions with regard to realisation of cooperative dues. Because of these there would be no difficulty for farmers in getting fresh loans in these areas. Besides under the 'B' component of Crop loans given by Cooperative farmers can have the facility of getting seed.

[*English*]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, the first question is—it will be very useful for not only me, but for other hon. Members of Parliament here who suffer three years of drought—what are the several essential concessions. If they are circulated, it will be very useful to all, who come from the seven States having recurring drought.

Secondly, the (b) portion of my question is whether realisation of interest on such advances is proposed to be adjusted against fresh advances. That has not been replied. May I ask this then ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recollect in the conference of

the farmers of the country held under your chairmanship in Andhra Pradesh, some announcements were made by the Hon. Prime Minister, which have since been implemented and which I would like to repeat here for the benefit of the hon. Members. The Hon. Prime Minister announced recovery of loans in seven years in the areas affected by continuous drought for the last two years. In the areas which have been affected by drought or floods, consecutive three or more years the recoveries will be made in 10 years. As far as the question of interest is concerned, if the interest amount exceeds the principal, then the interest amount over and above the principal will be written off.

In addition to this there is a proposal to bring down rates of interest. On the first Rs. 5,000 loan interest rate has been reduced to 10 per cent from 11.5 per cent charged earlier, thereby providing a relief of 1.5 per cent to the borrowing farmers. On loans amounting to Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500, interest rate has been reduced by 2.5 per cent to 10 per cent from 12.5 per cent. On loans amounting to Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 10,000 concession of one per cent has been given by reducing the rate of interest from 12.5 per cent to 11.5 per cent. On loans of Rs. 10,000 Rs. 15,000 rate of interest has been reduced to 11.5 per cent from 12.5 per cent to 14 per cent per annum. This much reduction has been made in the rates of interest and on the recovery side period has been extended from 7 to 10 years.

Secondly, if new loans are sought then the amounts overdue will not be a handicap.

[*English*]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : The second question I would like to ask is, that when a farmer asks for fresh advances, will that be adjusted against his earlier dues—this is what has been asked in part (b)—so that he does not have to pay back the balance from borrowing money at tremendous rate of interest from some traders, in order to get a new loan.

Secondly, bullocks in all these States are totally unhealthy and many of them are unfit for ploughing. Can some extra funding be given for buying bullocks ?