

**Fishing by foreign vessels in Indian waters**

814. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: DR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the foreign vessels to operate and fish in Indian waters;

(b) whether it is a fact that these vessels have been fishing in Indian waters close to the shore and destroying nets of the Indian fishermen;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these foreign vessels collect about 150 tonnes of fish per month;

(d) if so, the number of trips made by these vessels per month; and

(e) what steps have been taken to stop this exploitation of marine wealth by foreign vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b) Permission to charter deep sea foreign fishing vessels is given to Indian entrepreneurs under the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and the rules framed thereunder. As per the rules the foreign fishing vessels are allowed to operate only beyond the territorial waters. Instances have come to the notice of Government that, in some areas on the west coast, the foreign fishing vessels, though operating beyond the territorial waters, were fishing in the same areas as the small Indian fishermen. Government have decided to amend the rule to provide that the foreign fishing vessels shall operate in areas only beyond the territorial waters and depths of 40 fathoms, whichever is farther from the shore.

(c) and (d) On an average the chartered vessels make about 3 voyages in a year. The average catch per voyage was about 144 tons in 1983.

(e) Chartered vessels are required to be phased out according to a fixed time frame and replaced by ownership vessels of the Indian companies. Soft loans are extended to Indian entrepreneurs to encourage acquisition of fishing vessels by a judicious mix of import and indigenous construction.

Government have discouraged shrimping in order to prevent over exploitation of our shrimp resources.

. **Loss due to port workers strike.**

815. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) the total number of days port strike lasted;

(b) the port-wise break up of number of mandays lost in strike;

(c) what is the number of ships which returned from each port without unloading the goods during the strike; and

(d) what are the details of the agreement and of the commitment of Government in the settlement reached with Port workers/trade union leadership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) The strike lasted for twenty six days.

(b) The number of mandays lost due to strike by the port and dock workers has been estimated as follows:—