

for the construction of the Stage-I of the harbour at Vizhinjam.

(c) The proposal in respect of construction of stages II and III of the Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour has been processed for obtaining an investment decision.

Development of minor ports

2872. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan for the development of minor ports; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the minor ports which are likely to be developed under this Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) As per the decision of the National Development Council taken in 1978, development and management of minor ports is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. The State Governments have formulated plans for the development of the minor ports and funds for this purpose have been provided in the plan of the respective maritime States.

De-linking educational qualification from employment

2873. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are devising any policy to dis-associate educational qualifications from employment opportunities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have so far taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to disassociate educational qualifications from employment opportunities with the Government.

Cultivation on dry river and tank beds

2874. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to introduce cultivation during summer on the dry river and tank beds where moist and silt are available;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the feasibility of various crops which can be raised in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration with the Government of India. However, it is the general practice with the farmers to cultivate suitable vegetable crops during summer in these areas.

Storage scheme for agricultural produce

2875. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any scheme for storage of agricultural produce of small and marginal farmers to avoid distress sale of food-grains and other commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the scheme for establishment of a national grid of rural godowns are as under: