

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision to extend excise reliefs on fuel oil for all fishing boats has been taken so far. Hence, there is no delay in implementation.

(c) A time schedule can be drawn up when a decision is taken.

Overfishing by foreign chartered trawlers

2374. SHRI KRISHNA MOHAN BHAMIDIPATI:

SHRI K. V. R. S. BALA SUBBA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign chartered trawlers are overfishing and fishing for shrimp in coastal areas, thus harming the Indian fishermen;

(b) the action being taken by Government to make stringent action against such violations by foreign chartered trawlers; and

(c) the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) There is no indication of overfishing by foreign chartered trawlers. No permission has been given to charter foreign shrimp trawlers. The chartered foreign vessels are permitted to operate only beyond the territorial waters.

(b) and (c) The Coast Guard has been requested to be vigilant in respect of fishing by the chartered fishing vessels in the territorial waters.

Low prices of cotton

2375. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of cotton are reduced due to the loss to Marketing Federation of Maharashtra in implementing the scheme;

(b) if so, whether the losses are due to mismanagement of middlemen in the organisation or any other reasons; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c) The Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation is involved with Monopoly Procurement Scheme of Cotton in Maharashtra State, which is governed under Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971. The fixation of guaranteed prices is the function of the Cotton Coordination Committee set up by the Government of Maharashtra under the said Act. The operation of the scheme is the concern of the Government of Maharashtra.

Criterion of fixing the price of cotton

2376. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any relationship in fixing up the cotton prices with the cost of final product of textiles;

(b) if not, what other criterion is adopted in the matter; and

(c) what is economic relation in cotton industry of the producers to textile mill workers and mill owners?