

the sea, if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(b) what other measures are contemplated to harness the marine resources to the best advantage of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Government propose to introduce a Legislation for regulation of fishing by foreign fishing vessels in the Indian maritime zones. The Legislation is proposed to cover *inter-alia* various aspects of enforcement and penalty for violation of the various provisions of the legislation.

(b) Various measures for harnessing of inshore fishery resources are being taken by the States and Union Territories by grant of assistance to both mechanised boat and non-mechanised boat sectors including legislation for regulation of marine fishing within territorial waters. The Union Government under their plan have the following important schemes for harnessing marine fishery resources from the Exclusive Economic Zone:—

(1) Augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet;

(2) Permitting Indian Parties to charter foreign fishing vessels;

(3) Providing loans on soft terms for purchase of fishing vessels for deep sea fishing through the Shipping Development Fund Committee;

(4) Augmentation of fisheries survey and training facilities; and

(5) Assistance for construction of fishing harbours at major and minor ports and of landing and berthing facilities at smaller fishing centres.

Functioning of Food Corporation of India

1411. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to split up the Food Corporation of India with a view to achieving its efficient management; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Working of field staff of F.C.I.

1412. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any attempts to identify the malpractices such as delay in procurement, over-weighing and under-weighing of foodgrains, mixing of husks and foreign particle in foodgrains by the field staff of the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop the aforesaid malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Food Corporation of India has a large establishment at the Depots and operational centres dealing largely with public. Some complaints of local nature about malpractices in the purchase, sale and transportation of food grains are, occasionally received by the Corporation which are promptly looked into.

(b) Besides taking disciplinary action against the defaulting employees

the following steps are taken by the Corporation to avoid corruption in purchase and sale of foodgrains:—

(1) Wide publicity is given to the procurement prices fixed by the Government of India by issue of pamphlets and distribution of hand bills and also through public media like radio and television.

(2) The names of the officers in each mandi to whom the farmers can approach for redressal of grievances for quality and price are displayed.

(3) Special squads have been created to carry out special checks at the time of procurement and checking the functioning of the Corporation employees in their dealings with the public.

(4) Strict instructions are in force for effective supervision of the purchase operations during procurement operations to avoid inconvenience and hardship to the farmers.

(5) Purchases are made strictly as per the specification of the Government of India. In case the producer is not satisfied with the assessment of the technical staff on the spot, instructions exist to analyse the stocks in the presence of the farmers, representatives of the mandi committee and the State Government who are present in the market.

(6) Vigilance is also exercised by the Senior Officers.

Improvement in telephone service in Delhi

1413. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

SHRI B. C. PATNAYAK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to improve the Telephone ser-

vices in Delhi and other parts of the country during the last three months; and

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to curb absenteeism among the Delhi Telephones staff and introduce improvements in telephone services, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON:) A Task Force, consisting of Senior Officers had examined the problems of Telephone Services in Delhi and recommended certain short term and long term measures. The important ones are:—

1. Gas pressurisation of junction and primary cables.

2. Extensive maintenance of all telephone lines and instruments.

3. Protecting the cables with half-ducts and laying cables in ducts.

4. Special testing of exchange equipments particularly inter-exchange junction circuits.

5. Special watch over the working of fault repair service.

These are being implemented progressively.

In other States also measures on the above lines have been undertaken. Constant watch is kept on the performance of Telephone systems of the country.

(b) Yes Sir. The Department is taking action to create trained reserve pool of operative staff to take care of absenteeism, in Delhi as well as at other stations in the country.