

Illegal fishing by foreign trawlers

352. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal fishing by foreign trawlers is on increase both on the eastern and the western coasts of India;

(b) what action Government propose to take for preventing intrusion in our territorial waters by foreign trawlers and illegal fishing and for protecting our traditional fishermen;

(c) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to exploit this valuable sea-food for the benefit of people;

(d) whether it is a fact that one of the big business houses has been permitted to enter deep-sea fishing; and

(e) if so, what are the considerations for granting such permit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) Stray cases of poaching beyond our territorial waters but in the Exclusive Economic Zone are detected by the Coast Guard Organisation of the Ministry of Defence which is entrusted with the responsibility of guarding the Exclusive Economic Zone. They organise random patrolling with the available resources. Efforts have been made from time to time to intensify surveillance. The task, however, of patrolling our Exclusive Economic Zone which covers nearly 2.2 million sq. km. is an enormous one. With the increase in resources of Coast Guard by way of acquisition of more vessels, the position is likely to improve. However, the best remedy for preventing illegal fishing is by building a large fleet of deep sea vessels so that it is actively present in our seas.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to increase commercial deep sea fishing through introduction of large vessels both imported and indigenous. Joint ventures in deep sea fishing are also encouraged, wherever necessary.

(d) and (e) Deep sea fishing involves high investment with considerable managerial expertise. Six large houses are in the field of deep sea fishing. As deep sea fishing in India is in its nascent stage it also involves high risks which the large houses are capable of taking.

Shortage of nitrogenous fertilizers

†353. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing serious shortage of nitrogenous fertilizers; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to make up the shortage?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

12 Noon

FELICITATIONS TO THE INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM FOR ITS SUCCESS IN THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS—contd.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, before that we should send our heartiest congratulations to the Indian hockey team for winning the Gold Medal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, that has been done. We have all associated ourselves with this. You were not here.

†Previously Unstarred Question 167, transferred from the 28th July, 1980.