

Exploitation of marine resources of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*195. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:
SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 0.1 per cent of the marine resources of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is being exploited;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to augment the exploitation of these resources; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA. (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Although there is no firm scientific assessment of exploitable resources it is a fact that only a very small portion of the potential is now being exploited.

(b) The principal reasons are: (i) lack of suitable survey and investigation vessels, (ii) restrictions on participation of foreign agencies in the survey effort in view of security consideration; (iii) inadequate information on the exploitable fishing grounds and consequent reluctance on the part of private sector to invest money; and (iv) lack of local effort, as the Islands do not have any traditional fishing community;

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) It has been decided to establish a Fisheries Development Corporation which would undertake exploitation, processing and marketing besides taking up boat building and training activities.

(ii) The Department of Fisheries has taken up several developmental resources for providing training to local youth, assistance to the fishermen for purchasing fishing boats, nets and salt for curing fishing on subsidy-cum-loans basis, settlement of fishermen families from main land and establishment cooperative societies.

(iii) A survey of marine fishery resources and another for shellfish resources are being carried out by the survey and research organisations of the Government of India. A fishing harbour has been constructed at Port Blair.

(iv) A private Indian firm has been permitted to charter a fleet of vessels from abroad for exploitation of the resources around the Islands, with the base at Port Blair.

Progress in publication of University books in regional languages

*196. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:
Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the publication of university books in regional languages;

(b) what is the number of the books in regional languages published so far, subject-wise and language-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that these books are not being used by the Universities; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATAK): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of Production of University Level Books in Regional Languages, 4528 books have been published so far. Two statements showing the number of books published, language-wise and subject-wise, are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix No. CIV, Annexure Nos. 9 and 10]