

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 29th August, 1973/the 7th
Bhadra, 1895 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. CHAIRMAN in the chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Promotion of Ayurvedic Pharmacists to the posts of Store Keepers

*706. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Ayurvedic pharmacists in the C. G. H. S. Scheme have been promoted to the posts of store keepers while their conduct was under investigation by the C. B. I. in connection with the pilferage of ayurvedic medicines worth rupees ten thousand; and

(b) if so, the reasons for promoting persons with doubtful integrity ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KON. DAJJI BASAIPA) : (a) and (b) There is no post of store-keeper in the Ayurvedic dispensaries under the C. G. H. S. The question of promotion of an Ayurvedic Pharmacist as an Ayurvedic Store-keeper does not arise.

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : May I know from the Minister whether there was any shortage at least detected in respect of the man who was promoted ?

SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA : Yes Sir; about Rs. 55.10 was the value of the medicine found to be in shortage.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : We examined and there was shortage of stock of one medicine, Vasant Kusumakar.

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : What is the policy of the Government in regard to promoting persons of doubtful integrity ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : They are only pharmacists and clerks. He is one of them. When this matter came to the notice of the Department, we made a thorough inquiry and as my colleague just mentioned, the shortage of the stock was there and its value was assessed. And then the entire question was examined with the help of the C. B. I. It was not a crime of a nature where extreme punishment was called for. So, when he returned the money, with a warning he has been retained.

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : The hon. Minister has not answered my question as to what is the policy of the Government in matters of promoting persons of doubtful integrity.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : It is not a question of promotion here because he was holding a post; it was whether he should be removed or kept in his position. The promotion policy is certainly decided by the Departmental Promotion Committee and at the higher level in consultation with the U. P. S. C. Departmental Promotion Committee at the first level and, at the higher level, it is done in consultation with the UPSC. And nowhere will you find that a man of questionable integrity has been promoted.

Deep-sea-fishing

*707. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of marine products has more than doubled in the last ten years and that there is plenty of scope for further increase; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken step to encourage deep sea fishing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. 17,908 tonnes of marine products valued at Rs. 5.86 crores were exported in 1963. Against this 38,271 tonnes valued at Rs. 58.13 crores were exported in 1972. There is considerable scope for further increase in the export of marine products. It is anticipated that by the end of the 4th Plan, the exports would be of the order of 45,850 tonnes valued at Rs. 65 crores. It has been estimated by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade that, by the end of the 5th Plan, the exports can be stepped up to the extent of 1.50 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 118 crores.

(b) Government have taken several steps to encourage deep sea fishing. The Deep Sea Survey Organisation which was operating from bases at Cochin, Bombay, Tuticorin and Visakhapatnam has been strengthened during the 4th Plan by the establishment of additional bases at Port Blair, Calcutta, Kandla, Madras, Mangalore and Goa. The Deep Sea Survey Organisation has been conducting exploratory and experimental fishing operations with a view to charting these off-shore and deep-sea resources and determining suitable types of craft and gear. Marine resources on the south-west and south-east coasts of India have also been surveyed by the Integrated Fisheries Project (the former Indo-Norwegian Project). Survey of Palagic fisheries resources on the south-west coast is being undertaken by a Project established at Cochin with U. N. D. P. assistance. As a result of the survey work undertaken, important off-shore and deep sea fishery resources have been located.

A scheme of import of 30 deep sea fishing vessels was introduced in 1968-69. Licences were issued at various stages to 12 parties under the scheme. Five of

the parties have imported two vessels each and some of the other parties are finalising their arrangements for import. In June, 1973 Government notified a revised scheme for the import of a limited number of deep sea fishing vessels. It is proposed to allow import of 50 vessels subject to the condition that one vessel is constructed in the country for each vessel imported. Government have also entered into an agreement with Poland on cooperation in the field of marine fisheries. Further, steps have been taken to obtain Norwegian Aid in regard to the strengthening of two ship building yards in the country for the construction of deep sea fishing vessels.

It is also proposed to obtain components for the construction of 10 deep sea fishing vessels under Norwegian aid for the expansion of exploratory survey activities. Government have also introduced a scheme for granting subsidies for indigenous vessels to the extent of the difference between the c. i. f. value of imported vessels and indigenously constructed vessels of the same size, subject to a ceiling of 27½% of the cost of the corresponding foreign vessel.

In order to provide the manpower required for the operation of deep sea fishing vessels the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives at Cochin has been strengthened by the addition of a unit at Madras.

Under Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (with 100% grant from the Central Government), fishing harbours capable of providing complete services for berthing and maintenance of deep sea fishing vessels, and handling of their catches, have been sanctioned at Roychowk (near Calcutta), Cochin, Madras, Tuticorin, Vijnjham (near Trivandrum) and Port Blair. Proposals for similar harbours at several other centres are under consideration on the basis of detailed project reports which have been drawn up by Port Trusts and by U. N. D. P. Project for Pre-Investment Survey of Fishing Harbours.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : सभापतिजी, मंत्री महोदय ने प्रश्न के उत्तर में जो वक्तव्य दिया है उससे पता चलता है कि गहरे पानी में मछली मारने की स्कीम है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि 12 पार्टियों को उन्होंने लाइसेंस दिया है जलयानों के लिये। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जलयानों से गहरे पानी में मछली मारने के लिये जिन 12 पार्टियों को आपने लाइसेंस दिया तो कब दिया और किन लोगों को दिया।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I can lay the list on the Table of the House. About 30 trawlers were to be imported and about 10 have been imported. For the others, some parties could not fulfil the conditions. But all this list will be laid on the Table of the House.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : मैं पूरक प्रश्न के द्वारा यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि निकटवर्ती समुद्र में 10, 15 या 20 फीथम तक लोग मछली मारते हैं जिसकी वजह से विदेशी मुद्रा में आपको काफी बढ़ोतरी मिली है और 5 करोड़ से आप 58 करोड़ तक पहुंचे हैं।

आप की स्कीम है कि डेढ़ लाख टन आप मछली मारेंगे जिस के लिए 300 जलयानों की आवश्यकता है। मगर आप के वक्तव्य से यह स्पष्ट पता चलता है कि आप ने सिर्फ 50 जलयानों का ही प्रबंध किया है। इस लिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो आप का टार्गेट है डेढ़ लाख टन मछली मारने का गहरे पानी से या निकटवर्ती पानी से तो इस को आप कैसे पूरा करेंगे? और दूसरी बात यह है कि नजदीक में निकटवर्ती समुद्र में जो आप मछली मारेंगे उस के लिए कोई पैरिनिथल व्यवस्था नहीं है क्योंकि कुछ समय बाद आप की मछली वहां घट जायेगी इसलिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मछली मारने के लिये गहरे पानी में 40 या 30 फीथम की गहराई में जो काम होने वाला है उसे आप कब शुरू करेंगे?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, it is true that 300 trawlers were to

be introduced during the Fourth Plan period. There has been some shortfall. But despite that, exports are going up. The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade which investigated this particular aspect of the matter, has even indicated that it is possible, by the end of the Fifth Plan to increase our exports beyond Rs. 100 crores. Even supposing that there is some marginal shortfall in the introduction of trawlers, a very large number of mechanised boats are likely to be introduced. So, as far as fish exports are concerned, I do not see any difficulty in reaching the target or even in over-reaching the target.

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the State-wise break-up of the export earnings of Rs. 58.13 crores, which he has mentioned in the statement?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have not got the State-wise break-up with me now. But if the hon. Member is interested, I can furnish it to him. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Mysore are the leading States. Now Andhra Pradesh is also coming up. Orissa is also slowly coming up.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Sir, most of the leading fishing nations like the U. S. S. R., the U.S.A., Sweden and Japan are utilising aerial spotting devices like infra-red and helicopters. I would like to know whether the Government is considering the question of keeping in touch with these developments and whether they are trying to acquire such sophisticated techniques. Secondly I would like to know whether there is any proposal to acquire or to manufacture indigenously catamarans which have high manoeuvrability; they are sturdy boats and they have bigger dock space also.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : It is a good suggestion of the hon. Member that we should use the most sophisticated techniques for exploring or invest

gating the potential of fisheries in our country, particularly deep-sea fishing. But at the moment, we are using only trawlers, big-size trawlers, for exploration purposes. Already we are keeping in touch with the international agencies, and to the extent possible, related to our development, we are trying to use sophisticated techniques. As far as encouraging the building up of indigenous trawlers is concerned, the whole approach of the Government of India...

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Catamarans.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : That is part of the equipment. We are trying to encourage the introduction and building up of our own trawlers and the introduction of modern techniques in those trawlers. Naturally that will take some time, but quite good strides have been made during the last three or four years.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Sir, of course, it is a matter of gratification that our catch of fish in the deep waters is increasing. But may I know whether the Government will take some steps to see that a certain percentage of this increase in the catch is diverted to the inland market, because the Indian market is absolutely starved of fish and the result is that the price of fish in Delhi and Calcutta is Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 per kilo?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : No, it is Rs. 14 to Rs. 16.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : May be, he knows better. I also take fish. Therefore will the hon. Minister make it a point to divert at least 20 per cent to the inland market so that he may have some fish to eat?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Member seems to have a good intention, but I do not think it would be a feasible proposition because our total landing both from inland and marine fisheries is about 18 lakh tonnes.

Out of that, we are exporting about 36 or 40 thousand tonnes. That is less than 4.6 per cent. And 95 per cent is being used for domestic consumption both of inland and marine fish. The earning of foreign exchange is also very important from the point of view of our economy. But an addition of 2 to 3 per cent is not going to change the fishing economy. What needs to be done really is to increase our catch, both inland and marine.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the countries which are mainly importing marine products from India and the total expenditure incurred in the Fourth Plan on the development of fisheries.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the precise figures of actual expenditure which we have incurred will be available later on. But I can say that as far as our direct expenditure on the development of major and minor harbours is concerned, the provision for major harbours is Rs. 11 crores and for minor harbours it is Rs. 6 crores. As regards how much of it will be spent by the end of this year, we will have to calculate it.

SHRI R. K. PODDAR : Is the Government thinking in terms of acquiring a sort of factory-ships which can be installed on the high seas so that small fish food can be canned and exported and they do not have to come to the mainland?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, that will have to be considered, now as we are developing our fisheries and we are going to the higher oceanic depths, naturally this will have to be tried. Actually, Sir, we have entered into an agreement with Poland recently for deep-sea fishing. Perhaps, some possibilities can be explored.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Is it a fact that the Defence Ministry objects to go beyond a certain mileage

in the sea for deep-sea fishing and if so what is the limit which has been prescribed by the Defence Ministry and is it possible to persuade the Defence Ministry to go beyond that so that we can get a better crop of fish both in quality and quantity.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE :
Sir, the hon. Member seems to be under some misapprehension because...

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :
I am not.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : He does not eat fish.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : May I explain ? There are certain limits of territorial waters and beyond the territorial waters any fishing vessel of any country can go and fish. There is no question of restricting our own vessel beyond the territorial waters. In fact the Defence Ministry has been giving all encouragement for deep-sea fishing because if our vessels move all around our country in the deep sea, our interests will be protected, and the Defence Ministry is encouraging and not discouraging this.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :
On a point of explanation, Sir. I had myself taken up this matter with Mr. Advani in Bombay when they were told that, "since you will be going beyond three miles of the sea for fishing, we will not give you permission." And after great labour I got the permission from the Defence Minister. So, that is not a correct statement.

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAL : Sir, fishing is a very good enterprise. With less investment, more profit is usually expected.

West Bengal has only 64 kms of marine coast whereas Orissa has 400 kms of marine coast apart from the Chilka Lake etc. May I know from the hon. Minis-

ter as to what steps they are going to take to explore the possibilities of deep sea fishing in Orissa ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE :
We are laying a lot of emphasis now on exploring the possibilities in the Orissa coast and recently one of our findings has been that there are rich fishing potentialities near the Chilka Lake. So, our deep sea fishing centres are carrying out more investigations and we shall encourage fishery development particularly in that par..

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON :
Sir, may I know from the Government whether the terms and conditions for the import of trawlers are very onerous and beyond the means of a small entrepreneur and whether in view of the difficulties faced by the small entrepreneurs who have built up these expert things, will the Government consider the possibility of advancing loans and such other facilities to the small entrepreneurs at lower rates of interests and on a par with the facilities given for the purchase of ships out of the shipping development fund ? May I also know whether the finances of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation will be made available to fishing entrepreneurs for purchase of trawlers, etc. ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I can only say that because very heavy investment is required for deep sea fishing and for acquiring big vessels, the small entrepreneurs can get credit facilities not only from the Agricultural Refinance Corporation but also from the Banking Department if they organise themselves in a cooperative way.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting, Mr. Kulkarni ? Is it because the word 'co-operative' has been mentioned ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE :
Periodically, we have been taking up this problem with the Banking Department and the nationalised banks asking

them to give all encouragement to at parties, small and big, engaged in deep sea fishing. We have circulated a model law to the State Governments and we propose to come up with a legislation whereby the areas in the proximity of the sea shore will be earmarked and reserved for small fishermen.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON :
I asked about advancing money to the small entrepreneurs.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE :
I have already stated that we are taking it up with the Banking Department and the commercial banks.

Supply of sugar through fair price shops in Delhi

*708. **SHRI K. C. PANDA :**†

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :

SHRI K. P. SINGHDEO :

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugar per head being supplied through the fair price shops in Delhi ;

(b) whether there is a growing demand that this quantity is not adequate and that there should be an upward revision of sugar quota for the consumers; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE : (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) 900 Grams per head per month.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) With the existing total availability of sugar, it has not been possible to think of any increase in the per capita issue of levy sugar in Delhi.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. C. anda.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : Sir, from April, 1972, the sugar quota of Delhi has been gradually decreasing from 6,000 and odd to present quota of 4,300 although the population and the number of ration cards are increasing. May I ask the hon. Minister whether he wants the people to reduce the consumption or to allow the people to purchase at a high rate.

PROF. SHER SINGH : It is not a fact that we are decreasing the quota of Delhi. In fact, we have increased the quota from May. It was 4,350 in April and in May it was increased to 4940. It is continuing like that. It was never 6,000.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : In view of the fact that the sugar production prospect is bright, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he wants to fix the same quota throughout the country, so that the consumers are benefited ?

PROF. SHER SINGH : No doubt production has increased this year. Last year, we were left with only 5½ lakh tonnes on 1st October and, therefore we had to distribute it throughout the year and also had to have something left with us. On 1st October this year also we will be left with 7 lakh tonnes. As and when we produce much more than what we need at this rate, we will think of increasing the supplies.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : What is the per capita availability in the urban areas of Delhi and in the rural areas of Delhi ?

PROF. SHER SINGH : In Delhi there is no distinction between rural and urban areas. The whole of Delhi, including rural areas, is considered as urban and all the people get 900 grammes per month per head.

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT : Regarding the sugar racket, the Lt. Governor of Delhi ordered an inquiry by a District Magistrate because certain superior