

## RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 9th August, 1972/the 18th  
Sraavana, 1894 (Saka).

The House met at eleven of the clock,  
Mr. Chavan in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### FISH FAMINE IN WESTERN COAST

\*209. SHRI S. G. SARDESAI:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

SHRI SITARAM KESRI:†

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether fish famine has set in all  
along the West Coast right from Versaval  
to Cochin;

(b) whether the fishing industry in the  
West Coast is facing a Crisis due to poor  
catch in the current year;

(c) whether hundreds of fishermen  
operating small crafts are likely to be  
ruined as a result of the crisis;

(d) where the entry of big business  
houses to the fishing industry with trawlers  
has also added to the misery of the fisher-  
men; and

(e) if so, what steps Government pro-  
pose to take to solve the developing crisis  
in the fishing industry on the West Coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) to (e) A  
statement is laid on the Table of the  
Sabha.

(a) to (c) There has been no serious  
decline in fish catches in the current year  
on the West Coast. The quantum of fish  
production from January to June, 1972  
was about 13 per cent less than that of  
the corresponding period of 1971 but was  
higher by the same percentage than the  
production in the corresponding period of  
1970. There has been an increase in the  
catches of shrimp which is commercially  
the most valuable variety. There has been

a marked rise in the export of shrimp.  
There is accordingly no basis for the view  
that there is a crisis in the fishing in-  
dustry on the West Coast.

(d) and (e) The annual production of  
marine fish in the country is over one  
million tonnes, of which about 75 per  
cent is from the West Coast. About  
80 per cent of the fish is landed by indi-  
genous non-powered craft, and the re-  
mainder by mechanised boats, most of  
which have been allotted by State Govern-  
ments under subsidy-cum-loan schemes to  
groups of fishermen and fishermen's co-  
operatives. During the last three years  
only six deep sea fishing vessels have  
been introduced in the private sector for  
commercial fishing. Of these only two  
are based on the West Coast. The annual  
production potential of these deep sea  
fishing vessels is roughly about 500 tonnes  
per vessel. Only one of the three firms  
which have imported trawlers falls in the  
category of dominant undertakings or lar-  
ger industrial houses. There is therefore  
no basis for the view that the entry of  
big business houses with trawlers into the  
fishing industry has had any significant  
impact on the situation. It is necessary  
to increase production and to tap re-  
sources which are not within the range  
of existing vessels. As more mechanised  
boats and deep sea fishing vessels are pro-  
posed to be introduced, Government are  
already examining the question of demar-  
cating fishing zones in such a manner as  
to avoid conflict of interests between in-  
digenous craft, mechanised boats and deep  
sea fishing vessels.

श्री मोता राम केशरो : अध्यक्षजी खाद्य मंत्री द्वारा  
उपस्थित वक्तव्य को मैंने पढ़ा और आपने इस  
बात से इस्कार किया कि मछली के उत्पादन  
या पकड़ में तो कमी नहीं हुई है बल्कि जनवरी  
से जून 1972 की अवधि में मछली का उत्पादन  
सन् की इसी अवधि के उत्पादन की तुलना में  
13 प्रतिशत कम था। मेरे प्रश्न पूछने का मतलब  
यह था कि इसका उत्पादन अक्टूबर, नवम्बर और  
दिसम्बर के महीने में 50 प्रतिशत कम हुआ जिसकी  
वजह से जो मछली है उनकी ग्रामदनी घट गई है  
और उन्हें आर्थिक हानि हुई है।

†The question was actually asked on  
the floor of the House by Shri Sitaram  
Kesri.

आपने अपने वक्तव्य में यह भी कहा कि इस समय जो मछली पकड़ने के क्षेत्र हैं उन क्षेत्रों के निर्धारण के प्रश्न पर विचार किया जा रहा है। पहली बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय मछुओं की जो आर्थिक स्थिति फ़ैमिन के कारण और पकड़ के कारण खराब हुई और जो उन्हें घाटा हुआ है—उनकी आमदनी 300 रु० माहवार से घटकर 100 रु० माहवार रह गई है, इस चीज पर आपकी नजर पड़ी है या नहीं? अगर इस चीज पर आपकी नजर पड़ी है, तो इसके लिए सरकार ने ऐसे मछुओं के लिए कोई योजना बनाई है जिनकी आमदनी फ़ैमिन और कम पकड़ की वजह से कम हो गई है? अगर आपने इस तरह की कोई योजना बनाई है, तो वह कौनसी योजना है जिसके द्वारा उनको आर्थिक मदद मिल सके।

**SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE:** Sir, I am glad the hon. Member is taking interest in fisheries also. Hon. Members would appreciate that as far fish landings are concerned, there are periodical cycles. This is a phenomenon not peculiar to India only. All over the world, peculiar cycles do occur. But even then we find that from 1961 onwards, during the last one decade, our marine landings have been progressively increasing. It was about 6 to 7 lakh tonnes, and now has crossed 11 or 12 lakh tonnes. At compared to 1970, the catch in the first six months of 1972 is much higher. In fact, last year during the first six months we exported fish worth Rs. 15 crores roughly. Now during the same period we have exported fish worth about Rs. 25 crores. So the exports also are increasing. But the point is, if we take the State-wise figures, for instance in Kerala there is a set-back. As against 2.14 lakh tonnes last year, the landings have been 1.42 lakh tonnes and this has affected that area obviously. To that extent Mr. Kesri's point is correct. But as far as Maharashtra and Mysore are concerned there has been an increase in the landings.

**श्री सोता राम केशरी** अध्यक्ष जो, मन्त्री महोदय मे मेरे इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह भी कहा कि बड़े बड़े व्यापारी इस क्षेत्र में काम कर रहे हैं जिसकी

वजह से जो छोटे मछुए हैं उन्हें हानि हो रही है। उन्हें इस बारे में शायद विश्वास नहीं, लेकिन जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है, इस प्रश्न के सम्बन्ध में, मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि पश्चिमी तट पर पांच छ हजार मील का जो इलाका मछली पकड़ने का है, जैसे बेरावल में, ऐसे समुद्री तट पर बड़े बड़े व्यापारी अपने ट्रोलर और एयर कडीशनर लेकर पहुँच जाते हैं और वहाँ पर मछलियों को पकड़ते हैं। जितनी जगह उनके पास होती है उतनी वे मछली रख लेते हैं और बाकी को छोड़ देते हैं। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि जब छोटे मछुए मछली पकड़ने जाते हैं, तो मछली पहले ही डर की वजह से उस स्थान से दूर भाग जाती है और उनके हाथ कुछ भी नहीं आती जिसकी वजह से उन्हें आर्थिक हानि उठानी पड़ती है।

वह जो इलाका है, क्षेत्र है जहाँ छोटे मछुए मछली मारते हैं...

**श्री सभापति:** आप प्रश्न करिए।

**श्री सोताराम केशरी** उसकी भूमिका बताऊँ, मैंने सोचा कि सदन को भी खबर हो। वह जो इलाका है, क्षेत्र है जहाँ बड़े व्यापारी लोग मछली मारते हैं और मछली छोड़ देते हैं अधिक हो जाने की वजह से तो मछली भाग जाती है। तो मैं मन्त्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या छोटे मछुओं के लिए मछली मारने की जो सीमा है उससे बड़े व्यापारी जो मछली मारते हैं उनको तकरीबन 40-50 फीस, 100-150 समुद्र में नीचे मछली पकड़ने का आदेश दिया जायगा जिससे छोटे मछुओं को सरफ़ेस पर, नजदीक में मछली मारने का अवसर रहे और वे लाभान्वित हो सकें।

**SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE:** We have already circulated to the State Governments and we have asked for their view to what extent reservation can be made for smaller fishermen. We do not want this sort of a conflict to come about. Then, secondly we are consulting also the Law Ministry to define what the legal aspects of it are. But I would like to clarify the position because recently I find a spate of questions being asked on this as if there is a very big conflict. I would like to dispel any wrong impression

of the honourable Members. First of all, we have not touched the fringe of the problem as far as deep sea fishing is concerned. According to the estimates of experts 10 million tons of fish are available in the deep seas round about India. But we are not catching even 10 per cent of the deep fishing. In fact our fleet needs to be expanded in a much bigger way. But unfortunately in deep waters small parties are not prepared to invest. First of all, even while encouraging big parties to go in for deep sea fishing, we would like them not to encroach upon the areas, particularly those which have been referred to by the honourable Member, where smaller fishermen are fishing. As far as deep waters are concerned, I think this needs to be encouraged. In all countries, whether it is Japan or Western countries or other countries, this is done. We find these are complementary big trawlers and small boatmen with their complementary activity. In our country when we have to find new avenues for employment of fishermen etc., we have to develop our deep sea fishing and I hope the House will appreciate that we need not unnecessarily make an issue in regard to these matters. The Government of India would see that a conflict does not develop and as far as the small fishermen's interests are concerned, we will take all necessary steps.

**SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL :** Since it is the Government's case that the big fishermen, the big trawlers, are holding monopoly over the deep sea fishing, is it possible for the Government to organise cooperatives of small fisheries and encourage them to go into the deep sea business. And for that purpose, will the Government give subsidies to them out of the foreign exchange earned by the Government?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE :** Actually the Government of India's policy is to encourage cooperatives. In fact, in a number of areas our cooperatives are functioning. And even for existing cooperatives the subsidy is available. For

instance, we are giving excise rebate on diesel for mechanised boats operated by these cooperatives and fishermen. The policy is that. The point is if we have to go much beyond that, if the cooperatives of fishermen are prepared to come forward, we would very much welcome them. But as the honourable Member has said, at the moment big trawlers, for instance, on the western coast, catch about 1000 tons of fish from deep waters out of 1 million tons. So really the conflict is not there. Therefore, on that account there should not be any doubt.

**SHRI N. JOSEPH :** In view of the fact that the fishermen living on fish industry on the sea coast between Madras and Visakhapatnam are suffering for want of modern facilities, has the Government got any plan to supply them with loans on a long-term basis and thus encourage fishing and also solve their problem?

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The question about Madras sea coast does not arise.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE :** Sir, the honourable Minister has already stated that out of the ten million, production capacity of marine fishing is only one million and 25 per cent is obtained from the east and 75 per cent of it is obtained from the western coast. In view of that, may I know from the honourable Minister whether the Government has any comprehensive scheme to explore the possibilities of augmenting the production from the other coastal areas also and, if so, what is that scheme?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE :** Sir, the honourable Member is right. As I said in the second part of my reply, at the moment, because of the nature of the continental shelf on the western coast—it gradually goes down—fishing is easier as it is shallow and on the eastern coast, the continental shelf goes all of a sudden and, therefore, fishing is difficult. But, Sir, the Government is very much seized of the problem and we are trying, in co-operation with the State Governments, to encourage development of fisheries on

the eastern coast and we hope that the eastern coast would also come up in the years to come

MR CHAIRMAN Last question Nobody? All right Next question

#### NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY

\*210 SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON.  
SHRI S G SARDESAI  
SHRI N K KRISHNAN  
SHRI M K MOHTA †  
SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA.  
SHRIMATI SITA DEVI  
DR K MATHEW KURIAN.  
SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANA-  
RAYANA

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No 494 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31.5.72 and state

(a) whether a National Housing and Urban Development Policy has since been formulated, and if so, the details thereof,

(b) whether a Housing Ministers' Conference was held recently in New Delhi to find out the actual requirements of houses in rural/urban areas and also ways to expedite the progress of the Centrally aided housing schemes, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (DR DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA) (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

#### STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir, The matter is under consideration of a Steering Group set up by

†The question was asked on the floor of the House by Shri M K Mohta

the Planning Commission in connection with the formulation of the Fifth Five Year Plan

(b) and (c) A Housing Ministers Conference was held at New Delhi on the 12th and 13th July, 1972 which considered, *inter alia*, the question of vigorous implementation of the following three Central Sector Schemes —

(i) Scheme for Provision of House-sites to Landless Workers in Rural Areas,

(ii) Scheme for Environmental Improvement of Slum Areas in 11 Metropolitan Cities, and

(iii) Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers

The main recommendations of the Conference relating to these Schemes are as follows —

(i) Administrative and technical machinery both at the Centre and in the States, should be suitably strengthened and geared to the task of speedy implementation of the schemes

(ii) 25 per cent of the funds allocated to each State under the first two schemes pending scrutiny and sanction advance to enable them to go ahead with the work on projects formulated in conformity with the provisions of the schemes pending scrutiny and sanction of those projects by the Government of India

(iii) Legislation on Land reforms and conferment of home-stead rights on those landless workers who are in occupation of land in the rural areas as house sites, should be tied up with the Scheme for Provision of House-sites to Landless Workers in Rural Areas To reduce the cost of acquisition of land under this Scheme, Land Acquisition Acts of Central and State Governments should be amended in the light of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution