

Tuna fishing by foreign fishermen

969. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of recommendations made by the Murari Committee with regard to banning of fishing Tuna fish in Indian waters by foreign fishermen/trawlers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that fishing of Tuna was banned between 1996 and 2002;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that now Government has issued letter of permit for Tuna fishing by foreign fishermen/trawlers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) The Murari Committee *inter alia* made the following recommendations in 1996 with regard to Tuna fishing in Indian waters:

1. All permits issued for fishing by joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing should be cancelled.
2. No renewal extension or new licence/permits be issued in future for fishing to joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing vessels.
3. In the area open to the vessels above 20m length resource specific vessels for tuna and tuna like fishes, squids and cuttle fish, deep-sea fin-fishes in mid-water or pelagic regions and oceanic tuna may be allowed to Indian owned registered vessels.
4. The fleet size for different fishing grounds may be fixed taking into account of the maximum sustainable yield and the need for conservation of resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Government issues Letters of Permission (LOPs) to Indian vessels for fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

Implementation of Vidarbha package

970. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of implementation of Vidarbha package so far;

(b) how many farmers have been benefited from the package so far; and

(c) the percentage of women farmers who have been benefited from the Vidarbha package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) In July 2006, Government of India announced a rehabilitation package amounting to Rs. 3873.26 crore to mitigate the distress of farmers in six identified districts namely Akola, Wardha, Amravati, Buldana, Wasim and Yavatmal of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Details regarding status of implementation of this package including number of farmers benefited are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) This information is not collected by the present information collection system instituted for monitoring of the implementation of Rehabilitation Package.

Statement

Status of implementation of Vidarbha package in Maharashtra

(Up to 31st December, 2010)

(Rs. in Crore)

Scheme	Total Allocation	Expenditure	Physical Achievement including number of farmers benefited
1	2	3	4
Interest Waiver	712.00	837.50	9.37 Lakh Farmers
Assured Irrigation	2,177.26	2,684.89	1.15 Lakh Ha. Irrigation potential
Micro Irrigation	78.00	113.19	91603 farmers
Check Dams	180.00	191.72	9072 Check Dam completed
Watershed Development	162.00	54.15	90118 Ha. Area
Water Harvesting	18.00	6.00	3000 Farm Ponds

1	2	3	4
Extension Services	3.00	11.66	Farmers training
Seed Replacement	180.00	215.69	15.31 Lakh qtl. seed distributed
Horticulture Development	225.00	114.31	52128 Ha. area
Subsidiary income Activities	135.00	80.50	25247 Milch animal distributed to 15319 farmers
TOTAL	3,870.26 *	4309.61	

* In addition, allocation of Rs.3.00 crore as ex-gratia assistance under Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was also made under the Rehabilitation Package to mitigate the distress of farmers in six identified districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Investment in agriculture for research and development

†971. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in agricultural research and development work in India is very low;

(b) whether Government is considering increasing investment in research and development activities in agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Plan expenditure of ICAR during the IX Plan was Rs. 2479 crore, Rs. 4658 crore in X Plan and is expected to be Rs. 8900 crores during the XI Plan.

Drug discovery and research

972. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set-up a venture capital fund to facilitate investment in drug discovery and research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.