

Fishing facilities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1742. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fishing is done in deep waters in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and that the fishing facilities like sophisticated boats, cold storage, processing and export have been provided;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the fish die due to old age and not by fishing by the fisherman; and
- (d) the steps Government is taking to promote dairy farming in this Island?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presently 63 mechanized fishing boats are deployed for fishing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands waters. In addition, 13 ice plants of 188 tonnes capacity per day and 8 cold storages of 290 tonnes capacity are available in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A provision of Rs. 479 lakh has been kept for the creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities under Union Territory Plan schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan. Fish catch are also transported to mainland either for domestic consumption or for export.

(c) Death of fish due to natural mortality is a biological phenomenon.

(d) Existing non-descript cattle and buffaloes are being improved through Frozen Semen Technology using superior quality frozen semen of Jersey and Holstein-Friesian breeds of cows and Murrah buffaloes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Programmes for production of improved variety of fodder crops and grasses are also being implemented. The artificial insemination services and health coverage to cattle are being provided free of cost. In addition, training programmes on Dairy farming, clean milk production etc. are being undertaken. The Government of India has also provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 221.91 lakh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Intensive Dairy Development Programme.

Development of agricultural machineries by ICAR

1743. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of agricultural machineries like sugar-cane harvesters, cotton pickers and paddy transplanters which are currently imported in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has succeeded in developing and customizing new products in the field of farm implements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture is not aware of any empirical evidences or reports that indicate a general shortage of agricultural machineries and equipment in Indian market. Many variants of farm equipments including Paddy Transplanters are now being manufactured in India and they are widely available in the market.

However, a few sophisticated, high value and special purpose agricultural machineries like sugarcane harvesters, cotton pickers etc. are currently imported on demand for deployment in specific areas.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its All India Coordinated Project on Farm Implements and Machinery (AICPFIM) have already developed and customized various agricultural equipments and farm implements that are suitable to the needs of various agro-climatic regions of the country. Most notable among them are precision pneumatic seeder, raised bed planter, multi-crop thresher, self-propelled harvester, straw reaper, straw bailer, tree climber etc.

Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

1744. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(b) the recommendations of the Joint Group constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to review and bring improvements in the Existing Crop Insurance Scheme;

(c) the details of the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme; and

(d) the time-frame by when this scheme will be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) With a view to provide financial support to the farmers in the event of crop failure due to natural