

Policy on deep sea fishing

479. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to review the deep sea fishing policy of Government;

(b) whether an expert group under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gopakumar, Deputy Director General (Fisheries) has been set up for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government have constituted an Expert Group on 28.12.1999 under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Gopakumar, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), ICAR for formulation of a Comprehensive Policy for Marine Fisheries. The Committee had four sittings so far and its extended term is upto 30.9.2000. The terms of reference of the Expert Group is given in the Statement.

Statement

(i) To ascertain the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by the traditional (including motorised), mechanised and deep sea fishing vessel,

(ii) To formulate programmes for upgradation of the capabilities of the small-scale sector to fish in deeper waters,

(iii) To fix area-wise resource specific deep sea fishing fleet like tuna long liners, purse seiners, squid jiggers, pole and long line fishing, etc.,

(iv) To evaluate the capacity of the present fishing deep sea fishing fleet and suggest modifications and redeployment, if necessary,

(v) To estimate and identify sources for meeting the investment requirements of the marine fisheries sector,

(vi) To assess the need for joint ventures, leasing, etc. with foreign fishing companies,

(vii) To identify the human resource development needs of the marine fisheries sector and formulate programmes for meeting such requirements, and

(viii) To suggest conservation measures taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other global initiatives for sustainable development of marine fisheries.

Long Term Policy to tackle natural calamities

480. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State of Gujarat had worst drought very recently and had approached Government for financial assistance;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance sought and the amount sanctioned disbursed;

(c) whether Government contemplate to form some long-term policy so that these types of natural calamities could be controlled/fought effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1999-2000, in addition to release of entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 121.05 crore, Rs. 54.58 crore (against Rs. 722.16 crore demanded) was released to the State from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). During 2000-01, three quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 131.14 crore have also been released to the State.

(c) and (d) Funds are also released under the schemes like