Losses due to LoP in EEZ

Shall be provided to each class as required.

Play material, games

and sports equipment

- *414. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Letter of Permit (LoP) sanctions cause monumental losses to Government and the industry estimates that the revenue of the catch exploited in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by foreign vessels is

estimated between ₹ 600 to ₹ 1000 crore, but India earns only one time payment of around ₹ 8 lakhs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a complaint has been filed with CBI on the LoP scheme and the vessels operating under it; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Letter of Permit (LoP) is issued only to eligible Indian entrepreneurs in accordance with the existing deep sea fishing guidelines.

(c) and (d) Some complaints have been enquired into by the Chennai and Delhi branches of CBI. While CBI Chennai has filed its closure report in the cases stating that no evidence to support the charges against the companies listed in the complaints have been found, CBI Delhi in its report on two preliminary enquiries has only pointed out certain administrative loopholes in procedures. The government, through an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries and specific Expert Groups/Committees reviews the deep sea guidelines and policies on a regular basis to provide an enabling environment for the growth of deep sea fisheries and to streamline the procedures.

Proposal to merge BSNL and MTNL

- *415. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Department of Telecommunications has proposed to merge BSNL and MTNL to protect BSNL from continuous losses;
- (b) if so, whether the merger will provide benefit to BSNL in developing its fiscal resources and competing successfully with private players; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Presently, there is no proposal with Department of Telecommunication (DoT) to merge BSNL and MTNL.

However, to bring about synergies between various telecom units of DoT, a committee was constituted by DoT in May 2011. One of the Terms of Reference of the Committee was to study and suggest the feasibility of merger of MTNL and BSNL to form a strong organization to meet the needs of telecom sector. The committee has submitted its report in December, 2011. The Committee has mentioned in its report