

Survey by Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries along Maharashtra Coast

2721. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-West Coast of Maharashtra was surveyed by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for fisheries, for providing the best infrastructure facilities for the fishermen of this region; and

(b) if so, the details of location selected and when the work on these projects is likely to start and completed?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries has not surveyed the North-West coast. However, a Group was constituted in June, 1988 by the Ministry of Agriculture to identify a suitable location for the development of a deep sea fishery harbour on the North-West Coast.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Group the Ministry of Agriculture have taken a decision in principle to develop two deep sea fishery harbours, one at Agar-danda in Maharashtra and the other at Okha in Gujarat, subject to the techno-economic feasibility and the availability of resources in the Eighth Plan.

[*Translation*]

Consumption of Fertilizers

2722. SHRI KESHARI LAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average consumption of fertilizers per acre in the country and how does it compare with the consumption in other

developed countries; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to encourage the farmers to use more fertilizers for increasing the production of foodgrains?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The average consumption of fertilizers in the country is provisionally estimated to be 20.11 kg. per acre during 87-88 and 25.25 kg. per acre during 88-89. The fertilizer consumption per ha. in India is lower than in many developed countries. It is, however, higher than in Australia and Canada (statement is given below.)

(b) Some of the steps taken by Government of India to encourage the farmers to use more fertilisers for increasing the production of foodgrains are listed below:

(i) The Urea and DAP manufacturers have been directed to supply 10% of the fertilizer allocation in small bags so as to encourage fertiliser use in remote areas.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to exempt dealers upto 10 tonnes of fertilizer stocks from the requirement of registration certificate.

(iii) Government of India is providing financial support for opening of retail outlets and laying out fertiliser use demonstrations in rainfed areas. Farmers trainings are also being organised.

(iv) Soil testing services have been strengthened to ensure balanced use of fertilizers.

(v) Quality control facilities have been strengthened to ensure supply of