

Guidelines on Reservation for Non-Mechanised Fishing

5. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to issue revised guidelines to various States like Kerala, Tamilnadu, Goa, Maharashtra etc. to reserve adequate distance from the sea shore for non-mechanised fishing so as to protect the interests of small fishermen from competition with mechanised fishing; and

(b) if so, the salient features of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) The Union Government issued guidelines to the Governments of maritime States and Union Territories on 29th March, 1978, as follows:—

(i) Non-mechanised traditional fishing craft should be allowed to operate freely without any restriction but waters up to 5 kms from the shore may be reserved exclusively for such fishing craft and no other fishing craft should be allowed to operate from that area.

(ii) Mechanised fishing vessels should operate beyond 5 km limit from the coast.

(iii) Off-shore and Deep Sea Fishing Vessels, i.e. vessels of 25 gross tonnes and above which require to be manned by a skipper under the existing statutory rules should operate beyond 10 km from the shore. Normally vessels above 15 metres length come under this category.

There is no proposal to revise the guidelines.

Social Forestry

6. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of

AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre have suggested to State Governments to take up social forestry to improve the ecological system;

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be given to the States for this purpose;

(c) whether allotment of land and financial assistance are being given to individuals who want to come forward to take up the programme of social forestry; and

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States for giving encouragement to those who pioneer social forestry and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) No Central assistance is proposed to be given to the States for this purpose in future as the Social Forestry Schemes have been transferred to the State Sector with effect from 1-4-1979 following the decision of the National Development Council.

(c) The required information is being collected from the States and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

(d) 'Farm Forestry' i.e. planting of trees on private farms is one of the programmes to be taken up under "Social Forestry" as per the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture. This programme has been recommended to all States. In order to motivate the farmers to take up farm forestry, the States have been requested to set up forest extension wings for educating the farmers of the importance of planting trees the right choice of species and the proper technique of planting etc. The States have also been advised to ensure supply of adequate seedlings of the right species free of cost or on concessional rates.