

(b) and (c) The State Government will have to decide the revised composition of the Board as well as modalities of its functioning and agency etc.

#### **Multi-Agency Biogas Programme**

43. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a masive multi-agency biogas programme shortly; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and when this project is proposed to be put on the road?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up a large number of biogas plants through multi-agencies at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores during the Sixth Plan is under consideration.

(b) The details of the project are being finalised.

#### **Fish Famine due to Discharge of Industrial Effluents into Bombay Coastal Belt**

44. SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

SHRI R. K. MHALGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to discharge of industrial effluents and sewage waste into the sea around Bombay's coastal belt many varieties of fish have now become extinct and the daily fish catch there has dwindled drastically;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of fish famine in the coastal belt many fishermen's families are on the verge of starvation; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION, (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra has intimated that traditional fishery in certain limited number of creeks around Bombay is adversely affected due to discharge of sewage waste and industrial effluents. This has not resulted in damage to fisheries in coastal belt as such or has led to extinction of any species of fish. There has been no drastic dwindling of fish catch or starvation among fishermen families.

(c) The State Government of Maharashtra has set up a State Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 which is entrusted with the task of looking after the matters regarding prevention and control of water pollution in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

#### **Speedy Transportation of Commodities**

45. SHRI SUBODH SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that failure of the Food Corporation of India and the Railways to transport the commodities to distribution points even when the commodities are available in the Food Corporation of India godown disturbs the public distribution system very badly; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to look into this aspect of the problem and to take up the matter with Food Corporation of India and Railway authorities for ensuring smooth movement of essential commodities to distribution points?