

(d) Five.

(e) Special efforts are being made to identify the officials responsible for irregularities. Help from Police and CBI is being taken.

### **Socio Economic Development of Fishermen in Orissa**

7231. SHRI NAGARAJ MALLIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme for socio-economic development of fishermen community in Kasafal area of Balasore district of Orissa, being implemented with assistance from Norway, has been discontinued since 31 March, 1990;

(b) the achievements made under the project;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to continue the scheme;

(d) the number of workers retrenched/proposed to be retrenched as a result of discontinuance of the scheme; and

(e) the steps taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). As per the agreement signed between the Governments of India and Norway, the duration of the Orissa Fisheries District Development Programme, undertaken with Norwegian assistance stands terminated on 31.3.90. However, the activities envisaged under the agreement will be completed by the State Government. The achievements of the Project include provision of approach-roads in the project area,

construction of primary schools, health centres, erection of beacon light at fish-landing sites, facility for supply of drinking water, improvement of economic conditions of women in poor house-holds, improvement of ferry-services and training of fisher-folk in fish-handling etc.

(d) and (e). Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

### **Financial Mis-Management by NDDB**

7232. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether profits earned by NDDB are subject to tax;

(b) whether the funds of the National Dairy Development Board are subjected to the audit or scrutiny by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NDDB handles business worth several thousands crores of rupees, if so, whether Government propose to make NDDB's accounts auditable by CAG; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Section 44 of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Act, 1987 provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Income-tax Act, 1961 or any other enactment for the time being in force relating to tax on income, profits or gains, the NDDB shall not be liable to pay income-tax or any other

tax in respect of its income, profits or gains derived.

(b) and (c). Section 28 (1) of the NDDB Act, 1987 provides that the accounts of the NDDB shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies under the Companies Act, and the appointment of auditors and remuneration payable to them shall be subject to the approval of the Central Government.

(d) and (e). As per the provisions of NDDB Act, 1987, the question does not arise.

#### **Complaints Regarding Telephone Services**

7233. SHRIVENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of numerous complaints regarding functioning of Telephone services in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve working of existing units; and

(c) the results of corrective measures carried out, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the steps taken for making telephone services more efficient are given below:—

- i) Replacement of old and worn out equipments by electronic equipments and installation of new electronic digital exchanges in urban and rural

areas;

- ii) Upgradation of external plant;
- iii) Improvement/modernisation of long distance transmission;
- iv) Computerisation of services, such as fault control, directory enquiry etc.

(c) With these measures, a significant improvement has been noticed in the telephone services such as manual trunk calls, STD and local call completion rate, delivery of telegrams and reduction in fault rate.

#### **Purchase of Fibre Optic Cables**

7234. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies, both public and private, from whom Government have been buying fibre optic cables for communications needs;

(b) the names of companies that have been licensed to manufacture fibre optic cables;

(c) the names of companies and the amounts of the orders placed so far by the communications department for fibre optic cables;

(d) whether there have been any complaints so far regarding the performance of the fibre optic cables supplied so far and if so the details thereof; and

(e) the average prices of fibre optic cables being paid by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (e). The