

इसलिये हाउस से आप के द्वारा मैं यह प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ, कि देश में जो यह गुलामी हम लोगों की है, यह दूर होनी चाहिये। हम लोगों को हमारे अधिकार अभी तक नहीं मिले हैं। जब तक यह अधिकार नहीं मिलते और हमारी गुलामी नहीं जाती है तब तक हालत ठीक नहीं होगी। जैसे हमारे हाथ में अधिकार कभी न कभी तो आवेगा ही, तब फिर हम हालत ठीक करेंगे। इसलिये ग्रह एक गम्भीर दृष्टि से विचार करने का सवाल है, हंसने का नहीं है। इसलिये हम को सपोर्ट करना और सब दृष्टि से हम लोगों की सहायता करना, यह आप का काम है। यही मेरी प्रार्थना है।

*The House then adjourned till Four of the Clock.*

*The House re-assembled at Four of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING INDUSTRY

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the discussion, for an hour, regarding the research and development of the fishing industry in India. Before I call upon Mr. Nayar to initiate the discussion, I would like to know how long the hon. Minister would take to reply.

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** Say, fifteen or twenty minutes, or, if you like, even ten minutes will do.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us have it as fifteen minutes. I will call him at 4-45 P.M. There are, apart from Mr. Nayar, other hon. Members who want to participate in the discussion. May I know who they are?

**Shri Muniswamy and Shri A. M. Thomas rose—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have got the list here—Shri Achuthan, Shri A. M. Thomas; Shri Punnoose and Shri Joachim Alva.

**Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil):** I am really sorry that many of the hon. Members who like eating fish have not come to attend this discussion on how to get more fish.

**Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour):** Because there is no fish available. It is so costly in Delhi and we hardly get any fish.

**Shri Thanu Pillai (Tirunelveli):** On a point of order, Sir. Does the hon. Member mean that Members who do not take fish need not attend or participate in this discussion?

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I am sure, once the hon. Member takes fish, he will love it and perhaps eat more than we do.

Sir, the points on which I wish to raise this discussion are:

- (1) The urgency of the development of the fishing industry on proper lines.
- (2) The harm in delaying this.
- (3) The lack of scientific approach on the part of Government in tackling this problem.
- (4) The wrong approach made in the case of the Norwegian Aid.
- (5) Lack of adequate cooperation of the Indian Navy in the matter of helping fisheries.

In my opinion, the lack of scientific approach is the basis of all these difficulties. If you go through the Planning Commission's Report, the Chapter on Fisheries shows...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I find some hon. Members talking to the officials in the Official Gallery. I would like hon. Members to avoid talking to officials during the proceedings, except in the case of hon. Ministers who,

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

during the course of a debate, may like to consult their officials and get any information.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In the Planning Commission's Revised Report, you find that they have given some priorities I shall read them out. In the case of marine fisheries, the priorities are:

- (1) mechanisation of country craft or introduction of new mechanised boats;
- (2) harbour facilities;
- (3) supply of requisites to fishermen;
- (4) development of marketing;
- (5) provision of ice and cold storage and transport facilities;
- (6) introduction of mothership operations; and
- (7) provision for off-shore fishing with larger powered vessels such as purse-seiners and trawlers; and etc. etc.

In my opinion, this is not a correct approach at all, because without scientific data and without very detailed knowledge of the industry, the socio-economic condition of the people engaged in it and the fishing areas what we have, nothing is possible. It is just like owning an automobile without the steering, if you merely put some power-driven trawlers out into the sea. What is the data before us to take to deep-sea fishing? You know that hardly one-tenth of the continental shelf is exploited, and our fishermen cannot reach the places where they get more fish. They can only go up to seven or eight miles because in roving to and fro, they spend about all the energy they have, and for actual fishing they have only very little energy left now. At such a time, it is no use taking to this sort of plan and saying that we are going to put umpteen trawlers into the sea and have mechanised fishing.

Look at the condition of the fishermen. The Planning Commission does not have a single word to say about it. Why is it that the fishing industry today is in such a very bad condition? Is it not a fact that the fishermen as a whole happen to be the most backward, the most exploited, people in India? I say that all the fishermen along the entire 2900 miles of the Indian coast, are exploited to the marrow of their bones. You find that an ordinary fisherman cannot go to sea in his own boat. There is no boat for him! He has to take a boat on hire, for which he has sometimes to give half the catch. Then, he does not own the net. The net also is very often owned by somebody else who hires it out, and for that he has to give one-fourth of the catch, so that after all his trouble the fisherman who hauls the fish is left with just one-fourth or so. This is what he gets after his braving the perils of the deep sea.

In the South, you must be knowing Sir, that in addition to all the combined effects of this exploitation of usurious people, there is the exploitation of the Church. In Travancore-Cochin and in the coast of Madras, from Cape Comorin to Tuticorin, the majority of the fishermen happen to be Christians. The Church has a time-established right for one-eighth or one-sixth of the catch.

**Shri Punnoose (Alleppey):** Sometimes one-fourth.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur):** It is unanown in our place.

**Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam):** There is confirmation by the approver, anyhow.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Sir, this is a very important matter and I would like to mention some more details, and I expect that no Member would disturb me.

You find that the masses of fishermen are kept in complete, perpetual ignorance. There is no sanitation along the coastline of India. There.

if you want to get a glass of pure water, you cannot have it. Keeping the fishermen in such a condition, it is impossible to improve the fishing industry. Something must be done, and I expect that Dr. Deshmukh would come and see these places where the fishermen are being exploited. Let him come and see how the middlemen rob the fishermen of the fruits of their perilous labour—how religious institutions add their quota of exploitation.

I would now like to take up another point. Why I say that the affairs so far as the fisheries are concerned are fishy, is because the Government and the Planning Commission did not have the correct or proper perspective when the Planning Commission's Report was drawn up. They say that they want deep-sea fishing. Several times, we have burnt our fingers in it. Several times we have tried deep-sea fishing by sending out some trawlers. But, that by itself is not enough. You have to have certain technical data. You have to make a complete hydrographic and hydrological study and a hydro-biological study. You have to get detailed information about zooplankton and Phytoplankton and all sorts of scientific investigations have to be carried on. As it is, what is the position? In answer to a question put to him, the hon. Minister said that they were collecting information about how scientific data is or could be collected! In the Planning Commission Report, a target of 1.5 million tons has been set for the year, but what is it that you are having in the Plan years? I am reading out the answer given by Shri Kidwai. This is what he says:

"Production of fish has been dwindling. In 1951 it was reduced by about 20,000 tons. In 1952 it was reduced by another 25,000 tons."

In one answer the Minister has stated that this reduction was primarily due to the fact that there was some decrease in sardines nauded on the

Malabar coast. That shows the importance of the Malabar coast.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Malabar is always considered to be very important.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** For India generally this is a very important problem. For Kerala it is a particularly important problem because we in Kerala happen to be the people who eat the maximum fish. Our *per capita* consumption is 21 lbs. a year, when the average Indian consumption is about 3.5 or 3.6 lbs. per year. For West Bengal it comes to only 13 lbs. For Punjab it is only 0.9 lbs. We are more concerned with that because the fish industry plays a very important part in our food. It will and is bound to play a more important role in the economy of Aikya Kerala. But unless Government makes a proper approach nothing will save the Industry from ruin.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There is fresh water fishing also.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Yes Sir. There is considerable fresh water fishing also but as you have asked me to confine to research and allied problems, I am not going into it. I will submit some technical details which I would very much like the hon. Minister to study and act upon.

Off the coast of T. C. State there is a particular fishing ground known as "Wadge Bank". Here is a quotation from a paper contributed by the research scholar Dr. Malpas:

"The Wadge Bank lies outside the Indian territorial waters off Cape Comorin between Manapad and Quilon and is about 18 hours steaming from Colombo. It has an area of over 4,000 sq. miles and differs markedly from the Pedro Bank in being comparatively free from heavy growths of sponges and gorgonids".

Ideal conditions for trawling indeed! It is astonishing that the Government has not taken any steps to exploit that

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

portion. Its area is 4,000 sq. miles, much more than the area now exploited off the coast of Travancore-Cochin and Malabar what is the opinion of the Scientists who went there and did some work—I am reading to you from a Paper contributed by the Scientists who were in the Wadge Bank, to the *Bombay Natural History Journal*:

"Of the total quantity of 19,312 lbs. of fish landed on nine days by hand lines, 13,291 lbs. belonged to *Epinephelus* spp.; and *E. tauvina* alone accounted for 10,657 lbs. On the three days of fishing in February 6,150 lbs. were landed and on 6 fishing days in March, 13,162, lbs. were landed. Based on the number of hours of fishing and the number of hand lines employed, it works out to 33.2 lbs. of fish per hour per line. Expert fishermen land four to five fish at a time, otherwise it may not be worth the trouble of landing one fish at a time and to haul up the line for 100 metres."

The hon. Minister knows that at the rate at which the fish is now hauled by the use of most primitive implements, and exploited labour, our fishermen are able to get 2 cwts. per acre of sea in Kerala Coast. And imagine that the whole Wadge Bank with 4,000 sq. miles over which there has been no fishing so far, being tapped. Millions of tons of the best fish could be hauled. Yet it is kept as virgin area. It is disgraceful.

There you will find that on one side there is a cold current of an Antarctic drift and on another there seems to be a hot current with the result that there is constant upswelling of water. All this makes it the ideal breeding ground for fish. If we are able to tap the resources of this Wadge Bank alone, at the rate at which we get the quantity by using only primitive methods, we should be able to get two million tons per year. What then will be the catch, by the use of scienti-

fic methods? The whole target of the Five Year Plan is 1.5 million tons. During these years it has been dwindling not only very gradually but very steadily also. Give us the money. Our Wadge Bank alone can supply double your target figure!

I would ask Dr. Deshmukh to tell us what he has done for tapping this inexhaustible fishing ground. I have raised this question several times. It is so vital to the interest of Travancore-Cochin. What have you done about it; what is your Ministry doing about it?

Then I come to another question. We have been hearing that the F.A.O. comes and helps us; that there is Grow More Food campaign etc. that hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent on it. But what have you spent on fisheries? Is it not an important factor in solving our food problem?

There was a meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council which met somewhere in Philippines in 1951 or 1952. There was a proposal to set up a branch of Indo-Pacific Institute of Oceanography, in India. It is seen in the agenda of the meeting. It is here in the book containing the proceedings which was borrowed by me just now from Dr. Deshmukh himself. But there is only the agenda and no resolution on that aspect. I will tell you why it was left out. You know between India, Pakistan and Ceylon there is no fishing agreement whatsoever. So every country can now fish in the extra-territorial waters of these countries. U.S. of America, England or other countries which lead in fisheries have protected themselves against encroachment of others. We have to set up some conventions and also to establish rights of fisheries; otherwise you will find, as we now find the Japanese operating in our oceans, United States ships also operating in our extra-territorial waters. The other day a question was raised on a similar issue and the hon. Minister

said that no permission has been granted to American ships to operate near the Maldives and fish for tuna and bonito. These are varieties of fish which the Americans relish much. They seem to be the most priced fish in the United States of America.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Is it delicious?

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** It is supposed to be the most delicious fish for the Yankees. What is the position in regard to it at present? What have you done to remedy the evil of such possible encroachments into our areas?

Then, Sir, I would like to take up the very important question of co-operation of the Navy with fisheries. I very distinctly remember now, the other day the hon. Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia told the House that it is not possible in the interest of "public security" to associate Marine Biology Scholars and other scientists in naval operations. I ask why is it so? Our Navy alone can take hundreds of scientists whom we have to send out to the sea, to collect Hydro-biological data, Hydrographs and Planktonic data. The hon. Minister says that the Navy cannot do it. In fact, the British Navy was nurtured by the British fishing Industry. It is a pity that at a time when we have to produce 700 or 800 per cent. more of fish in this country even according to conservative estimates of Dr. Aykroyd the Minister says that "we are not interested and we cannot associate our navy with fishery".

There is another side of the picture. We have got an Oceanographer working in Waltair for the Andhra University. What are you doing with him? It was stated that it is not possible to give the data collected by him to other people. I wonder why the Bathythermograph data collected by the professor of Waltair University, who was for a long time attached to the United States Navy, is not made available to the Fisheries Department. It is very important. It is not only a question which affects fisheries in our

country but it is a question which helps the U.S. America to get an idea of the facilities in the Bay of Bengal for sub-marine berthing. Even in such vital matters where the foreigners have got a free hand, the Deputy Minister of Defence would come and tell us that it is not possible to take up that matter to the advantage of your fish Industry. If you want to maintain public security all that you need take is an oath of secrecy, but for God's sake please do all that is possible to develop the Industry. Sir, unless the Navy is very actively co-operating with the Fisheries Department, unless the Navy collects or helps to collect all the possible data from the sea, there can be no question of deep sea fishing.

And unless you have got the refrigeration plants, unless the necessary facilities of transport of fish from the coast to inland areas are provided, the fish industry cannot improve. I ask the Railway Minister—unfortunately he is not here—I would ask the Government how many additional refrigeration vans have you installed in the Railways in the Plan period? Obviously the reply, must be "not one". I have seen reports from various places in Travancore-Cochin and Malabar that they cannot send fish for want of ice vans. Even dry fish cannot be sent on all days. Only on certain days dry fish can be sent. Then what is the meaning of "deep sea fishing". When you cannot send the fish caught to the inland consumers.

No Indian industrialist has so far touched this industry. It is not as easy as setting up a pencil factory. It is a very difficult job. Once in a way an entrepreneur tries it, burns his fingers and drops out. Even under the "expert" management of Government it has failed. What about your pilot scheme of Bombay? I would like to have more details about it. How many days were the ships out in the sea, in a year? If you want to have deep sea fishing, and if you send out a trawler, you must first have perfect servicing arrangements. You must know what

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sea-bottom you have to trawl in. If you have a rocky bottom with corals, you cannot use a trawler. If you have a tempestuous sea, you cannot have a trawler on the sea for any useful purpose. Without knowing any one of these things, if you say, 15 purse-seiners from Norway, 25 trawlers from Denmark, have been ordered, it means nothing, absolutely nothing for the industry as a whole.

In Bengal, where people have a better taste for fresh-water fish, they have put on the sea two Danish trawlers. I understand, Sir, that it is deliberately done to help favourites. I learn that in the matter of inland fisheries also, the Government of West Bengal has not been doing anything properly. They have been converting paddy fields into fisheries in these days of food shortage. I also know how a very responsible man in Bengal—one of the fish kings of Calcutta—has swum into the Government of the State and how he protects his vested interests in fishery. That is the real cause why in Bengal many paddy-fields have been turned now into fisheries.

In every detail, where science could have helped us, this Government has bungled. It has not had proper perspective. I would earnestly urge upon the hon. Minister that if he wants to have some real benefit made out of our fish industry, he should immediately scrap this chapter on fisheries which you find in the Five Year Plan and make a fresh beginning, because he himself admits that during the Plan years we have been continuously declining in our fish yield. Unless you exploit the regions which are untapped as yet, there is no way of improvement in the yield of our fisheries. Planners are there, but in an academic way they approach the question. They say that for the per capita minimum requirement of diet there has to be about 1.3 ounces of fish every day. But they also say that 1.5 million tons will be the target of the Plan. This works out only to less

than 1.3 ounces per week and not per day. But here two millions or three millions of tons of fish from only one source can be available. There are inexhaustible sources of fish around us. I wonder whether the Government of India, at its instance, have sent one scholar to find out what are the possibilities of our new areas.

There is another very illuminating report about the Pedro Bank, which is on the other side, and which, Dr. Malpas says, is one of the best fishing grounds in this country. It is not so big as the Wadge Bank, but even that we have not exploited completely. The Ceylon Government, I understand, is doing something between the Pedro Bank and the Wadge Bank. Even they, the Ceylon Government who have very little resources compared to the Government of India, have done something, some trawling work on both the Banks and some work in oceanography and hydro-biology. But this Government does not take to it seriously at all. In fact, it is primarily the duty of the Government of India—because under the Constitution you find fishing outside the territorial waters is the responsibility of the Centre. So, you cannot just rest content by asking Travancore-Cochin or West Bengal to start deep sea fishing, or even the Bombay Government to have its pilot scheme worked for you there. This Government will have to take up the direct responsibility and in not doing so this Government has been callously negligent of what they have to do in the matter of relieving the food situation.

I would like to impress upon the House one more point, and that is about the very miserable conditions of the fishermen. Three months to four months in the year, they are off—without work. We are very fortunate because nowhere in the world can fishing go on for so many consecutive months in the year, they are off—without climate for that; we have Nature's gift for that. But even then, our

fishermen who go to the sea, who brave the perils of the sea every day, cannot do any work for these three or four monsoon months. This Government does nothing for them. They do not give any relief. The effect is that the fishermen, when they get off fishing, have to go and borrow money either from the net-owner or the boat-owner or from some village money-lender with the result that in three months they run into debts from which they never rise again. They are slaves to these people who lend the money and exploit their misery. In fact most of the fishermen in almost all the fishing villages are under obligation to either those people who give them loans or to the net-owners or to the boat-owners. Therefore they are crushed. If you want the fishing industry to thrive, please save them—the fishermen—first. Do not think of mechanising your fishing vessels before you see that the fishermen can stand upright. Let the fishermen have a square meal. Let them have pure drinking water. Let them have normal conditions of life. Then you can think of improving the production.

Then about the Norwegian aid. This Norwegian aid, I consider, is only a reflection of that Yankee gesture of generosity which we very often find there. What does it substantially do? How does it affect the conditions of the fishermen in Travancore-Cochin? There may be a project; there may be some attempts in deep sea fishing. I grant that. But as I told you, it is impossible to have any successful deep sea fishing unless you have details for the entire 2,900 miles of our coast—every detail of every science, of every known science as applicable to the sea. Otherwise, there is no chance. If you make a sporadic attempt at deep sea fishing, it is bound to fail, as it has already failed. There, in Travancore-Cochin, there was a company, the West Coast Fisheries. It tried some deep sea fishing; it failed. Now also, I understand, they are trying it, and they have frozen prawns worth about a few lakhs of pounds. But they want bigger vessels.

They want bigger refrigeration plants. Are you giving aid? Somebody in Delhi, somebody who perhaps had not even an occasion to have a look at the sea and who happens to be in the Fisheries Department may say: "Oh, there is that vessel and you can go in the 60 foot trawler." That is not the way in which you should approach this subject. The Government must be knowing what the facilities are, and they must have some persons who know the subject to decide this. I only wish that Dr. Deshmukh will have more sympathy for Travancore-Cochin in this matter and try to have a look round if it is possible for him.

I cannot say anything more by way of conclusion, than by saying that in the matter of policy in regard to fisheries, this Government has a striking resemblance in its anatomy to the fish itself, because anatomists tell us that the fish has a less ossified vertebral column—it is not very hard bone—and there is a primitive feature in its brain: it has the cerebrum and no distinguishable cerebellum and no grey matter whatever. I can only compare the anatomy of the fish to the anatomy of this Government. But I hope, Sir, that Government will try its best to rescue the industry from its present miserable plight.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Bereft of all superlatives and choice expressions, all characteristic of him, for the first time I am happy to associate myself with several of the observations that have been made by my hon. friend Mr. V. P. Nayar. I am reminded of an incident which took place some seven years back when in 1946 our present President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, was holding the portfolio of Food in the Central Government. Sir, there were great famine conditions in Travancore-Cochin at that time and Dr. Prasad was very much perturbed and he had a very soft corner for Travancore-Cochin. I do not know whether his Ministers have at present got that soft corner. He approached Mahatma Gandhi and told him about

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the difficulties in Travancore-Cochin. Mahatma Gandhi said: "You don't worry. They have got tapioca and fish. They will prosper. You don't worry". One article of food supplements the other and both tapioca and fish form a major part of the diet of Travancore-Cochin. Sir, I recall this incident just to show the very great importance that has to be attached to the fishing industry in Travancore-Cochin. Sir, I do not join with my hon. friend, Mr. V. P. Nayar when he says that the chapter on fisheries in the Five Year Plan has to be scrapped. I would submit that the chapter has to be implemented and not scrapped. I am sorry to find that although there has been an estimate made that at least the production of fish has to be increased by 0.5 million tons in the progress report of the Five Year Plan, I do not find anything about the fishing industry, what progress it has made and whether at all any progress has been made in the progress report of the Five Year Plan. I also find that Travancore-Cochin has been considered perhaps the best place for fishing throughout the world. The people who have rendered some aid to us in this direction, the Norwegians, are of opinion that the coast of Kerala is the best in the world for development of fisheries. I find, Sir, however, that in Travancore-Cochin, going by the progress report which has been supplied to us—page 163, Expenditure—Development—T.C. State—under item No. 6 'Fisheries' in 1951-52 the actuals were 0.1 lakh; during 1952-53 the revised estimate was 0.3 lakh and then in 1953-54 it was 6.4 lakhs. The five years' total is only Rs. 15 lakhs. Whatever it be in 1953-54 it is said that 6.4 lakhs are proposed to be spent. We do not think that any amount has been spent on that score.

Sir, there is great scope for deep-sea fishing. I do not want to enter into the scientific aspect of it which has been very well treated by my hon. friend Mr. Nayar, but I would

submit that there is great scope for deep-sea fishing in the coastal regions of Travancore-Cochin and the State Government itself takes a keen interest in its development. I understand, Sir, that the State Government has approached the Central Government for aid in several matters but that the Central Government has turned a deaf ear to all the requests of the State Government in this regard. Sir, it is a very regrettable state of affairs.

Sir, it is a well known fact that in Kerala unemployment in the coastal regions is very acute and any aid that we give in this direction is not aid misplaced. So, I would commend the suggestions of my hon. friend Mr. Nayar and request that something should be done in this direction.

Sir, you put a question as to what exactly is the average consumption of fish in the country. We find that the Indian average is very low: it is only 3.6 oz., or so per year. So that, it is an industry which has great potentialities for development, and if developed it will solve to a substantial extent our food problem also.

Sir, many of us Indians are rice-eaters. If fish is added to the diet among the people it will certainly improve the nutrition value of the food of the average man in our country.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It will be a supplementary food.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Sir, I do not think Mr. Nayar has been quite charitable when he mentioned about the Norwegian aid. Sir, I understand that fishing is the national industry of Norway and they are the best people that we can have to render us aid in this matter. Unlike, for example, American aid, which can be attacked on the ground that American machinery has to be imported here, no such charge can be levelled against the agreement for Norwegian aid. I understand that it is their idea not to import any machinery from other



countries, but to have all equipment made here out of indigenous material. I also understand that they are a self-sacrificing lot. In fact the experts who have come to Travancore-Cochin were offered the Residency buildings for their occupation, but they said that they would prefer to live with the fishermen and work with them and show them how this industry is to be developed. I am sorry, Sir, that my hon. friend Mr. Nayar has made certain reflections on these Norwegian people which is quite uncalled for.

I do not want to say anything more, except to deny one insinuation, because some insinuations will be there in Mr. Nayar's speech. He has said something about the church people....

**Shri Punnoose:** You know it.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** If at all it requires a confirmation, there is the confirmation of Mr. Punnoose.

I have not heard of any contribution made to the church after they have got the catch, but before they go for the catch, because of some superstitious belief, some offering is made.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** The fact is that the total catch which will come for the entire year in little parishes is estimated in advance. For instance, in a small parish with two hundred families that amount would come to about Rs. 30,000. I have visited every fishing village from Quilon to Cape Comorin. Mr. Thomas has not been even to one village in that area, I suppose.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have been to the villages more number of times than my hon. friend.

Sir, I do not deny that there are certain middlemen who take advantage of the poor plight of these fishermen. I do not deny that. But to attribute it to church is not fair. It has become a habit with members

coming from my part of the State to condemn these people like anything. There is reason also for that. I do not, however, wish to wash dirty linen in this House: here I am only concerned with the fishing industry.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Fish has no religion!

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Fish has absolutely no religion. I would, in the end, only appeal to the hon. the Food and Agriculture Minister, Dr. Deshmukh, if I may say so, to be more fish-minded, not fish-minded in the sense in which it has been used by my hon. friend, but in the real sense of the word. I hope he will pay more attention to this industry.

**Shri Achuthan (Crangannur):** Sir, I do not know whether you will be relishing a discussion on the fishery industry, when you are in the Chair.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am not a fish out of water.

**Shri Achuthan:** As you have gone across the oceans you must have had the good fortune to know about it. In fact fish food is one of the main sources of human food not only in India, but throughout the world. According to me, and scientists also, fish contains a good portion of protein, calcium and minerals.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Nobody disputes the nutritious value of it.

**Shri Achuthan:** As you must be aware...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am sufficiently stout even without fish.

**Shri Achuthan:** So also is Mr. N. C. Chatterjee who comes from Bengal.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I do not want hon. Members to carry on propaganda.

**Shri Achuthan:** Anyhow, the time has come in India when we must change our attitude, or our habits in regard to food, whether they be Brahmins or non-Brahmins.

[Shri Achuthan]

This is a matter in which the Central Government as well as States which have got facilities for development of fish industry must act upon. The Five Year Plan has given great importance to this matter. Mr. V. P. Nayar has dealt not only with the Central portfolio, but also the State portfolio. According to me there is a lot of things to be done by the States concerned. In fact the State Governments of Bombay, West Bengal and Travancore-Cochin are very keen about it. A few days back in an Independence Day Issue, I was reading about the activities of the West Bengal Government in this respect. I understand that they have done a lot.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** (Basirhat): No, no.

**Shri Achuthan:** I read that they have spent a lot of money....

**Shri K. K. Basu:** That they have done.

**Shri Achuthan:** ...to see that this industry is developed. In Travancore-Cochin, apart from the Norwegian aid and other facilities which the Central Government provide, our State is paying considerable attention for the development of the fishing industry as well as for improving the conditions of the fishermen. I come from a constituency where the major portion is coastal area. You might have heard of the old town Musulipatnam, the present Cranganur, where the Chola kings ruled and where previously there was a port. From there exports to the Mediterranean region had taken place. Even now fish rearing and fish curing is being done at Narakkal and the Travancore-Cochin Government is spending money for this purpose.

I would refer to deep sea fishing, and I would like to say that the Central Government has much to do with regard to research work. I have not been able to understand the

achievements done in the Research institutions at Barrackpore, Mandapam and Bombay. We must be enlightened on this as to how far we have succeeded in deep sea fishing so far as the whole coastal region is concerned, what quantity of fish has been caught last year or in the first six months of this year so that people may have an idea. For, we are not only academically interested, but we are practical-minded to see that more fish is caught and is distributed throughout the region.

Not only that. Unless we have ice plants or refrigerator plants and also transport facilities to take the fish raw to the interior areas, it may not be possible for the fishermen to get proper prices for their fish and the fish will perish and may have to be used as manure.

I do not know whether the Central Government has paid attention to the by-products, namely fish oil, fish manures and other subsidiary industries. We would like to know how far they have progressed with regard to those industries, because by this not only will there be a source of employment to a lot of people but it will also be a good manure. We are in need of manure. This is a good manure so far as plantations are concerned—coconut, rubber and other plantations. Let us know how much of the Five Year Plan in this regard we have been able to achieve by this time.

Mr. V. P. Nayar was talking about churches. Churches are meant for *nivarti marga*; they are not meant for this exploitation. Some churches might have unknowingly proceeded in the *thattipari marga*. But generally they are for *nivarti marga*.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The point for consideration is both the church and the followers, the disciples, may jointly exploit the sea.

**Shri Achuthan:** If the fishermen exploit the maximum, I would be happy. It is not a question of the

church. It is a question of improving their economic conditions.

**Shri C. R. Iyyanni:** Do you mean to say that all fishermen are Christians and none else?

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I did not say that all the fishermen are Christians. I only said that the majority of fishermen are Christians. And it happens to be a fact.

**Shri Nambiar (Mayuram):** And the church is exploiting them.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** After all it seems to be delicious.

**Shri Achuthan:** Sir, I would like to know from Government the extent to which progress has been made so far.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri Punnoose. I thought other hon. Members were not going to speak and so I allowed about 21 minutes to Mr. V. P. Nayar and so many minutes to Mr. Thomas and Mr. Achuthan.

**Shri Punnoose:** I will take only a few minutes, Sir.

**Shri Thanu Pillai:** May I know whether this is a monopoly to Travancore-Cochin State and not others, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Oh, yes. But they have not given their names. It appears these are the only persons.

**Shri Punnoose:** Sir, there are various types of fish and you will be interested to know that there is Brahmin fish also. I do not know whether it takes only vegetarian food, but it will make a proper food for vegetarians also.

Remarks were made about the Plan in relation to Fisheries. A sum of Rs. 4.68 crores has been set apart for this purpose. But what happens to our planning happens to this also. They do not take into consideration the major section of the people who are most affected by and interested in fisheries, namely the fishermen. They have not considered their stan-

dard of living, the way in which they live, their habitation, the nature of their work, and have made a plan which does not help the fishermen at all.

In Travancore-Cochin even twenty-five years back there was a Fisheries Department, and I am sorry to say that even in 1953, after six years of Independence, with this expert advice and guidance from the Central Government, not an iota of progress has been made in fisheries. It still remains in that primitive stage. Some time back there was the West Coast Fisheries Company that was started in Travancore and the State Government spent lakhs over it. A ship was brought and some catches were made. But today it is idle. It is remaining idle because you want a refrigerator to keep the fish in good condition, to preserve it. Sixty tons of ice can be made in that machine. Six lakh tons of fish can be preserved. But if this ship is not reinforced, if new vessels are not bought you will not get this much fish. The money is not frozen and the whole scheme is going to ruin.

And now there is, what we call, shark liver oil which we are able to get in large quantities from the Kerala waters. We can get sharks in very large numbers. It is the oil that is important because people do not generally relish the fish as such. But here in India, though shark liver oil is definitely superior to cod liver oil, we spend lakhs of rupees on importing cod liver oil every year. And some time back the Commerce Minister, who is as innocent of the fish as the fish is innocent of religion, said that shark liver oil is inferior to cod liver oil. But in fact the reverse is the case. Expert opinion is there. But nothing is being done to encourage it and the interests of particular provinces like Kerala, Bengal, etc. where fishing is most developed, are not taken into consideration. And the interests of the sections of people who are engaged in the work are not taken into consideration. Some sort

[Shri Punnoose]

of plan is there on paper, with the result that every year the production is going less and less. So it is high time that the Central Government wakes up and draws up a plan.

Now about the Norwegian aid; we are not attributing any sinister motives. But we are afraid that what has happened in the past will happen again. They are getting vessels. How will it help the fishermen? That is the question. Will it increase unemployment among the fishermen? Because, they are modern equipped vessels. Is there any plan to train the fishermen? The Norwegian expert says yes. I know that people from the Punjab are there. I am not against them. But people from other areas are brought there. Government should see that unemployment does not increase and also that our young men from those classes who are engaged in the industry are trained up and a plan is developed so that Kerala can take its rightful place in this field.

One other point also. There is fresh water fishing. Some time ago, I read an expert article in which it was said that the whole of Kerala can meet its fish requirements from fresh water rivers and lakes alone, without touching the sea at all, and the whole of the sea fish can be exported and converted into money, provided some steps are taken to breed fish in these areas. Today, it is all going to ruin. Careless and indiscreet catching reduces the quantity of fresh water fish. So, all these questions may be considered and a clear and intelligent effective plan may be developed even now.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what the Government has done for fishing all these years on our 3000 mile coast. We have the largest coast perhaps in any country in the world and we have fishes around our seas, richer and wealthier in contents than any of the Scandinavian coun-

tries or perhaps Japan. The Japanese with their trawlers and the Scandinavians with their superior instruments catch so much fish that they could export it for the whole of Europe and this part of Asia respectively. During the last year we got 3825 tons of prawns in Cochin out of which we got Rs. 85 lakhs by export to the Far East. This is going to be a very big foreign exchange earner. It is time that the Government of India rose to the occasion and scoured our seas, encouraging students or research and men of action, to find out how much fish is available for us around our entire coast. Here in Delhi, I want the hon. Minister to explain why 20 prawns cost as much as rupees three while it costs hardly two annas or four annas in the coast around the country. In the year 1950, we imported into India 5.51 lakh tons of fish, in 1951, 5.04 tons, in 1952, 5.02 lakh tons. Why is it so? Either our experts are asleep or they do not go sufficiently down the sea to find out how the fish is going around our 3000 mile coast. Foreigners come here. The Americans go beyond the three miles limit where sovereignty is unfettered, wherein any one who dares is master of the sea and indulge in sea fishing. I hope they are not all fishing in our troubled waters. We have in our own land a number of natural fishermen. They are untutored in the art of navigation. They are illiterate. But, they seem to know the seasons. As soon as *Shivaratri* or *Deepavali* is over, they go down the sea and catch so much fish that it astonishes one that these poor illiterate untrained could achieve so much and keep the countryside well fed. We are lacking in food. We are importing food. Fish is a very important item in the food of lakhs of people. We are content with the establishment of a Central Marine Fisheries Research Station in Mandapam, in a place which was once vacated by the Naval hospital. We are content to lay the flattering unction to our soul that for tropical fishing

we have the largest fishery research station in the East or in the West or in the world. It is true that Mandapam has an excellent, nay, an unrivalled library. But we want more stations of that type all over our coast line. We should not be merely content with having one in Mandapam, at the southernmost point of Hindustan. We must establish more such centres in Malabar, South and North Kanara, in Saurashtra and other parts of the Bombay State, in my constituency of Karwar especially where there is a large fisherman population. In my constituency of North Kanara and Kerala where my hon. friends who have already spoken come from, we have a large number of fishermen. They are untrained. They must be given refrigerators; they must be given trawlers; they must be given boats; they must be given nets. They must be put on their feet with co-operative societies from which they can reap benefits and ultimately establish a large industry. We imported lakhs of rupees worth of foreign fish oil which is essential for babies and for people with rickets and, consumption or diseases of the chest. What then is our Health Minister doing? The Government of Bombay has established a factory for the production of odourless, smell-less shark liver oil. Why not develop this industry which gives us an oil rich in nutriments and rich in vitamins. We must not only assist the mariners and fishermen to catch fish, but also see that oil is extracted: not only for our babies, but also for export so that we may earn a lot of money. That money must be ploughed back amongst fisherfolks.

One point more, Sir. There are fish; there are clams, oysters and squids. They are a population by themselves. They are delicacies on the table of the wealthy folks, be it here or abroad. The Government of India must make an attempt to catch as much of this lower species meant for bigger folks. In this way we can increase the general output. We should not be content with this one big research

station at Mandapam that we have. We must have large research centres in Karwar, Calicut, Malpe and Saurashtra, so that we can see how we could increase our catch by lakhs of tons, not only to rival the quality but also the quantity bagged by the Scandinavian countries as well as Japan.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Before I go to some of the points that have been referred to by hon. Members, I will just very briefly state the Government's position. I am glad it has been realised by the hon. Members that fisheries and fish is not only the concern of the Government of India, but there are the State Governments and that primarily it is their responsibility. The Central Government comes in only so far as the deep sea fishing and research are concerned.

So far as these two items are concerned, we have intensified our efforts recently, I might say. It is only from 1946 that we have paid a little more attention to fisheries than it was in the past. The figures that have been given by my hon. friend in his letter are most, since they were given by me, correct.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Given by you or by Mr. Kidwai.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** They may however give a misleading picture. For instance, in giving the total catch from year to year, I admit and I confess that they have been going down. But, this is not all the fish that we catch. There is a large quantity of marine fish as well as some estuarian fish which is caught and eaten then and there. The figures refer to what is brought into the market. It does not necessarily mean that all the fish are accounted for. The low average of less than four pounds per head per annum also does not give the correct position, from this point of view namely that there is a large population which does not eat fish and there are some people like us who get to eat fish only once in a blue moon.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Sixty per cent. of the people eat fish.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** While I admit that there is much yet to be done so far as fisheries and development of fishing are concerned, I must clear any misunderstanding that is based entirely on these figures. So far as the Central Government is concerned, they have helped the provincial Governments considerably. Under the Grow More Food Plan, we have so far assisted the State Governments by giving them nearly a crore of rupees. We also train their officials whose number comes to 130. We supply technical training to various people. I am very happy that apart from his condemnation of the Norwegian Agreement and so on his habitual flings, of what shall I say, vituperation he has pointed out more than once, probably half a dozen times, the difficulties in the fishing industry.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Are there power driven barges in the west coast as in Bombay, in Kerala and Mangalore?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have not got.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Loans are granted by the Bombay Government and at a cost of Rs. 3,000 they add the power plant.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Travancore has got 982 catamarans and 13,382 boats, making a total of 14,364. There is no power barge.

**Shri Nambiar:** Not a single one.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** For putting up the power apparatus, the provincial Government gives a loan of Rs. 3,000.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** They must have cold-storage facilities. Otherwise, what is the use?

5 P.M.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The difficulties have been pointed out by my hon. friend. It requires a considerable

amount of study and research and a detailed survey of the areas where we are going to do fishing. I am glad to see that some dissatisfaction that I felt has been in a certain way lifted by what Mr. V. P. Nayar said. Because very recently I tried to get all the expenditure that was incurred on the Bombay fishing station, and I found that they had, from the year 1946 up to date, spent about Rs. 50 lakhs and the total income derived during all these years was only Rs. 5 lakhs. When I questioned how this was, I was told that this is because we have yet to do a lot of work before we can succeed, and I am glad to see that Mr. Nayar accepted this point of view. You cannot just take your boats, however powerful they may be, and go and expect the fish to come round to you and land them in the ports. You have got to get the data, study the various areas, and then alone you can be successful. From that point of view I would say that all the money that we have spent on the Bombay station has not been in vain. We have also other research stations where research is going on, and after these data are available I am sure we will be in a better position to show better results.

My friend has referred to the Planning Commission and has characterised its recommendations as unsatisfactory. I am glad Mr. Thomas has pointed out that what we require is not scrapping of what has been suggested in the Plan, but its implementation, and if we are dissatisfied with the targets we may urge that the targets may be improved and more money and more attention need be paid. I may assure the hon. Members who have taken interest in this debate that from the time I have taken over as Minister of Agriculture I have given the largest amount of attention to this thing because I believe that by paying more attention the nation can be benefited not only from the point of view of certain amount of foreign

exchange, a certain amount of additional food, but from the point of view of employment and bettering the conditions of our people. From that point of view I think we should welcome the Norwegians for the assistance they have given, not condemn the assistance and say nothing is likely to come out of it. I do not think so. I think they are progressing very well, and I am sure these Norwegian experts and their assistance will take us a long way towards achieving whatever development we desire. By all means let us not confine our attention or our hopes only to what they are doing. We will certainly try to do more than what has been possible so far.

The condition of poverty and misery which was pointed out so far as the fishermen are concerned is only too true. I do not wish to deny it. It is certainly a fact that they do require assistance, but Mr. Nayar will find that both in the Norwegian plan and our plan we have given the fishermen quite an important place, and one of the first things we want is not to dislodge them from their profession but to strengthen them economically, to provide them fresh water and to give them better boats also. So far as all these matters are concerned, of course the Centre cannot do everything, but I can assure Mr. Nayar and other Members that we are conscious of the needs which they have pointed out, and we are concentrating attention on exactly those points which they have urged in this House.

There was a reference to the Church making a levy on certain quantities of fish from the fishermen. I have not known about it so far, but evidently it is more the concern of the State Government than me. I am sure if the complaint is true this is something which should be terminated. But we will have to approach not by way of law, but by persuasion. I cannot say if there is any truth in the allegation. In fact, Mr. Thomas has, I think, refuted the charge considerably. I do not wish to enter into the contro-

versy in any way, without at least sufficient information.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** They seem to require assistance by way of nets, barges, power barges...

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Loans from Government.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:**... Loans from Government, that co-operative societies should be formed, and then some refrigerator, cold storage plant etc.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That is being done. If you refer to the Progress Report of the Five Year Plan, on page 45 you will find the following:

"In respect of marine fisheries, the construction of the two large cold storage and ice plants at Calicut and Bangalore is nearing completion. Mechanisation of country craft in Bombay is making satisfactory progress. Danish trawlers belonging to the West Bengal Government are bringing in increased catches and the Japanese trawler operating in the Arabian sea is reported to be doing well. The refitting of the Government of India trawlers with a view to using them for bull trawling has been taken in hand. A team of fisheries officers of the maritime States headed by the Fisheries Development Adviser of the Government of India visited a number of countries in Europe, America and Japan to select equipment and personnel for the execution of the fisheries schemes included in the Plan and to be financed under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement. After their return, arrangements have been finalised for the purchase of equipment and recruitment of four fishing technicians from Japan for bull trawling operations. In addition, the services of a British technician have been obtained by the Government of India for exploratory and experimental fishing operation

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

with various types of gear. A project for fisheries development has been sanctioned as part of the Norwegian aid programme for Travancore-Cochin at a total cost of Rs. 38 lakhs."

Then, so far as inland fisheries are concerned:

"...the stocking of the Mettur reservoir is in progress. In U.P., the State Government have undertaken to stock canal reservoirs. Steps have been taken in Orissa and Bihar for large scale collection of fry for stocking new area."

On our side, the Central Government has tried to discharge its responsibilities in the two spheres which I have mentioned, and the States are also being given advice from time to time. As I have said earlier, nonetheless much remains to be done, and there is considerable leeway to be made up which I assure the House I will try to do.

I am glad the Government have already promised to reconsider and revise the Five-Year Plan from the point of view of unemployment. If that happens I hope to take the opportunity of intensifying our efforts for the improvement and development of fisheries. I am not absolutely unmindful of this and whenever I have gone to these seaside places, I have seen the fisheries curing centre at Ratnagiri; I have visited also the Bombay deep sea fishing centre, and when I went to Cuttack I have also seen the Inland Fisheries Research Station there. So, I can assure the hon. Members that I attach the greatest possible...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Did the hon. Minister say Calicut?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Cuttack. There is a research station at Cuttack—the State Government research station at Cuttack. The Central Government has also a small organisation there.

So, I can assure them that I am conscious of the importance that

fishing and fisheries occupy in the nation's life, and I will try and give the utmost possible help and assistance.

I thank Mr. Nayar for having drawn the pointed attention of everybody in the House to the importance of this thing, and I am also thankful for the constructive suggestions that he and other Members have made.

#### RESOLUTION RE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION ON PEPSU

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the discussion of the PEPSU Proclamation resolution. The hon. Member Sardar Saigal wants to say a few words. What about the hon. Minister? He has no objection. Yes, Mr. Saigal.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल: यूनियन के माननीय राष्ट्रपति ने ४ मार्च, १९५३ में जो आज्ञा विधान की धारा ३५६ के अनुसार जारी की है उसे यह सभा भवन मंजूर करता है, यह जो प्रस्ताव है उस के ऊपर आज यहां बहस हो रही है। इस बहस के दौरान में हमारे कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने पेंसू के जो दो अफसर हैं, मि० पी० एस० राव और मि० हरि राम मिश्र, उन के खिलाफ अपने विचारों को यहां रक्खा है। मैं उन माननीय सदस्यों से इस बात की प्रार्थना करूंगा कि जय वह अफसर यहां पर अपनी सफाई देने के लिये उपस्थित न हों, उन के खिलाफ कोई चीज यहां कहना इस सभा भवन के लिये अच्छी चीज नहीं है। मैं जानता हूं और विशेषकर मि० पी० एस० राव के बारे में कहने के लिये तैयार हूं कि जिस वक्त हम लोग मध्य प्रदेश धारा सभा के सदस्य थे, वह वहां पर चीफ सेक्रेटरी थे। जिस ईमानदारी से उन्होंने उस समय काम किया उस के लिये मैं उन को बधाई देता हूं। यही नहीं, सन् १९४० और १९४२ के दरम्यान जब हम और उस समय की सरकार आंबे