1994. However, by September 1994 the capture of prawn seed from surf zone expanded rapidly to the coastal belt of almost all the fishing villages of Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts.

The net used is fixed bagnet of 2.5 m length and 0.5 m width which is made of nylon mesh cloth (mosquito netting). The cost of the net is about Rs. 250-300. Two persons are required to operate the net effectively. A net can be operated 20 times in a day. Duration of each haul is about 30 minutes. The seed collected in each haul is transferred into a plastic tub filled with sea water. The seed is sold to the middle-man at the shore.

The price of the seed in July 1994 was Rs. 30/- for 100 numbers and it increased to Rs. 60/- by September 1994 due to heavy demand.

Collection of prawn seed has become a newly established endeavour of the fisherfolk particularly the aged, who have given up fishing and its idle. They have now enthusiastically entered this least risky, more profitable business of seed collection.

ON THE UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF ACETES SPP.
IN THE INSHORE WATERS OF PALK BAY*

The landings of sargostid shrimp Acetes spp. have been recorded from both west and east coasts. Among the total non-penaeid prawns landed in India, 75-80% is comprised of Acetes spp. (Mar. Fish. Infor. Ser., T & E serv., No.110:1991). Their landings from Maharashtra coast alone have been estimated at more than 56,000 tonnes. Similarly information on the catches of Acetes spp. from some parts of Tamil Nadu coast are available (Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser. No. 22:1979). But it appears that there is no information on the occurrence of these non-penaeid prawns along Palk Bay coast.

During the visit in connection with the collection of fish landing data, an unusual fishing for Acetes spp. was noticed on 21.6.'94, at M.V. Pattinam (Solai Kudi) a mechanised landing centre near Thondi along Palk Bay. The fishing for the species locally called as Chella kooni was conducted in the knee-deep water depth. The gears employed were mosquito nets and common saris.

The fishing was of short duration extending for two days only. The catches were estimated at about 500 kg. Sun-dried Acetes spp. were sold @ Rs. 10/ per Madras measure in the market of Nambuthalai, a near-by fishing village. Here also this non-penaeid prawn is made use of in curry preparation along with vegetables as is the practices in the northern maritime states (Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv., T&E Ser. No. 110:1991).

Length measurements were taken for a sample of 25 specimens. The size of Acetes spp. ranged from 15 to 25 mm.

ON THE FISH AUCTIONING SYSTEM IN THE VADALAREVU FISH LANDING CENTRE, ANDHRA PRADESH*

In the Vadalarevu fish landing centre in Andhra Pradesh the catches are sold by auctioning. For the purpose there are five auctioners in the village. They are selected by the elders of the village for which each auctioner has to pay Rs. 30,000 annually towards celebrating the village festival which falls in January every year.

The fisherman sort out the catch into groups in the boat itself and bring to the shore in separate baskets. The fishermen are not allowed to sell the catch directly to the merchants. Immediately after landing the auctioners start auction. But before auction, one large fish will be taken out from each fish group towards auction charges. If there are no auctioners present at the time of landing, the fishermen will have to wait until they arrive.

The auction will start from a higher to a lower amount. As the auction progress a merchant may utter a world "cho" at the level he desires to purchase the fish and if there is no further