

## **PRAWN SEED COLLECTION IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT IN ANDHRA PRADESH\***

The fishermen at most of the landing centres in Zone An.-1, the northern part of Srikakulam District upto Geddalapadu (south) use plastic mosquito nets, hand nets and nylon 'Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala' to catch prawn seeds. The nets have different colours i.e., white, green, rose, yellow and blue. 90% of the fishermen use nylon 'Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala.' The seed are collected from the surf region at a depth of 0.5 to 1.5 m. Juveniles range from 1 cm to 2cm in length. The price of 100 numbers of prawn seed ranges from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 100/-. The price of prawn seed decreases or increases depending upon the demand from the merchants. The merchants



Fig. 1. 'Nylon Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala'

from Kakinada, Bhimavaram, Machilipatnam, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry and other centres purchase the seed. Depending upon the sea condition and availability of the prawn seed the fishermen make collections during day and night. The major centres in Srikakulam district where more prawn seed is available are Bhavanapadu, Althada, Nuwalla Revu, Manchineelapetta, Kothuru, Gollagandi, Peddakarrivanipalem, Idduvanipalem, Kotha- kalingapatnam, Donkuru and Geddalapadu. In 1994 the seed collection started from third week of June. Initially there was less prawn seed and gradually the number increased. During the last week of August, the occurrence of seed decreased. In June and July each fishermen family got an income ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-.

### **The method of operation of 'Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala'.**

The net is set at the bottom in 0.5 to 1.5mm depth with the help of two sticks and 20 minutes after setting the net is lifted and prawn seed are collected into a plastic bucket containing sea water. The merchants transfer the prawn juveniles into polyethylene bags with sea water and add oxygen. Several bags are packed in a carton box for transporting the seeds to the fields.