

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

In the Vadalarevu fish landing centre in Andhara 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 acutioners 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 acution will start from a higher to a lower amount. As the auction progress a merchant may utter a word "cho" at the level he desires to purchase the fish and if there is no further

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bidder the auctioneer will set the price at that level. After all the fishes are auctioned the auctioneer will sell those fishes which he collected as auction charges. On an average the auctioneers together may get about Rs. 300 per day and about

Rs. 75,000 per year from which they have to pay Rs. 30,000 towards the village festival. The balance amount will be shared equally among the auctioneers at the end of the festival. In this way each auctioneer may get Rs. 7,000 to 8,000 every year.