SEA SHELL COLLECTION — AN ADDITIONAL MEANS OF INCOME FOR FISHERMEN OF MUTHYALAMMAPALEM, SOUTH OF VISAKHAPATNAM*

Along with fishing activities, the fishermen of Muthyalammapalem, a fishing village about 55 km south of Visakhapatnam have recently started the collection of sea shells from the intertidal zone in view of the great demand for shells from the poultry feed manufacturers. The shell collectors (now there are about 15 of them) travel 15 km each up and down along the shore every day and collect the shells using a nylon hand net of 15 mm mesh size (locally known as 'chinkamu'). The collected shells are sold to the merchants at a rate of about Rs. 5/- per basket of 10 kg. At an average, a person makes Rs. 40-50 per day from the shells he collects.

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