

Letters

Marine Biology Laboratory

Sir—The then Pakistan Government established a Marine Biological Laboratory at Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, to conduct researches in the different branches of Marine Biology. This Laboratory can play an important role in the development of marine fishery resources.

The Bay of Bengal is full of fishery resources. Considering the great importance of the fishery resources the Marine Biology Laboratory was established by the sea-shore at Cox's Bazar for marine biological researches of the Bay of Bengal.

Many commercially important fishery items of the Bay of Bengal are on the verge of extinction due to unscientific use of the resources.

Shrimps and prawns are the two most important exporting fishery commodities which earn a considerable amount of foreign exchange. But these resources will be destroyed if no scientific method of culture and other biological researches are carried out. The cultural practices of shrimps, prawns, and fishes by the local culturists along the coastal area of the Bay of Bengal are not scientific but are practised in their traditional primitive method. And as such the production of shrimps, prawns, and fishes is not upto the mark. The Government is keenly interested to boost the fisheries production of the country aiming at earning huge foreign exchange. The resources will be fully exhausted if the stock is not assessed and scientific cultures are practised.

So for the development of fisheries resources it needs extensive researches on marine biology. In this respect the Marine Biology Laboratory at Cox's Bazar can play an important role.

Considering the importance of the fishery resources of the Bay of Bengal, the Department of Marine Biology was established in 1971 under the Faculty of Science of Chittagong University. The students and teachers have been working in various marine biological researches for the development of marine fisheries resource.

But the prospective marine biologists coming out of this unique department are not being utilized properly, although there is a Marine Biological Laboratory at Cox's Bazar. If the marine biologists are employed, the various marine biological researches are possible as well as the unemployment problem of the country will be solved. And it will be possible to increase the production of the highly priced fishery commodities.

In the Marine Biology Laboratory, the following researches are possible by the employment of the marine biologists:—Ichthyology, Carcinology, Plantology, Malacology, Phycology, Microbiology and Bio Chemistry.

In view of the above facts the Cox's Bazar Marine Biology Laboratory should be put to greater use in immediately the greater interest of the country.—Yours, etc. A. K. M. KUTUB UDDIN, Dept. of Marine Biology, Chittagong University.

Traffic Engineering

Sir—The question of legal clearances (or non-clearances) should not delay quick implementation of traffic planning measures to relieve the traffic congestion in the city. Due to lack of foresight (not possible at the rate the expansion is taking place) enough parking spaces could not be provided in needed areas along the main thoroughfares of the city. Now the authorities have to be firm to wrest back spaces for parking areas.

For example take the New Market area. We see a lot of half hearted measures at a snail's pace. The kutcha bazar should be closed and the area converted into parking space for rickshaws and cars. Ten wards of greenery along the boundary walls of the Dacca College and Teachers Training College may be used for widening the road and for parking space—in public interest. Sentimental agitation may be firmly nipped in the bud.

The roundabout near the PG at Shahbagh is dangerous, thanks to bad design. Why the island is not being enlarged (larger diameter circle) to prevent straightline driving while crossing the intersection? As an interim measure, a beautiful fencing may be put around the present island. Left turns should be controlled.

The problems at the Nawabpur Gulistan crossing may be tackled in three steps: (a) control traffic, including one-way, two way diversions; (b) control parking and stoppages of buses within 25 yards; (c) change location of gates of BRTC terminal next to the children's park—and at a later stage remove the terminal. Then permanent solution by realignment of the roads in the area of conflict.

The new road on the former railway track: there are many blind spots about every two hundred yards.

One glaring weakness of the traffic police is to allow parking and bus stops near the intersections, turnings (Road 2 Mirpur Road: Elephant road Mirpur Rd.; Azimpur near Eden College, Medical College Gate: Asad Gate Farm Gate: Mohammadpur near BRTC terminal (gate near crossing to be closed); Topkhana road at B. Mokarram end (control left and right hand turns); Dharmamandi Road 15—Satmasjid Rd., etc.).

The point is many measures may be taken at once without expenditure of funds. Committees never work. It is the responsibility of the executive agencies/offices/departments to solve the problems and take action. Of course the higher authorities have to give prompt decisions. The bureaucratic pace will not solve the traffic problems. The right men in the right place with plenty of powers and decision-making ability can do something.—Yours, etc. A. MAWAZ, Dacca.