Introduction

Fisheries provide one of the richest renewable natural resources. From time immemorial fishing has been the traditional occupation for a large segment of the population inhabiting on the sea coast.

To exploit the fishery wealth the fishermen devised several techniques. Some of these techniques have created certain problems both for the administration and to the traditional fishermen.

The thesis analyses the problems faced by the fishing industry in Kerala, especially after mechanisation.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. to analyse the economics of operation of the mechanised fishing and to
discuss the important problems and issues of this sector.

2. to suggest various conservation measures based on the principle of fishery management regulations to avoid over fishing of the commercially important species.

3. to recommend the feasibility of fish culture activities as a source of income and employment to the fishermen community.

4. to suggest with the help of relevant data to the concerned authorities various measures for planning and implementation of development programmes for the benefit of the most exploited people of this sector.

Hypothesis

1. Fish catch levels have remained stagnant during the past in spite of various developmental programmes.

2. Mechanised fishing throughout the year is uneconomic in terms of cost and yield.

3. Fish culture industry can be developed for generating income, employment and foreign exchange earnings to the state.

Methodology

The study is both analytical and descriptive. The data for the study were collected in the following way.

1. Primary data for analysing the economics of mechanised fishing were collected for six quarters from the maximum concentrated mechanised fishing centre of Sakthikulangara-Neendakara belt.

2. To study the importance and potential of fish culture activities data were collected from the experimental fish farms of the Kerala Agricultural University, Ernakulam. Production function method is used to evaluate the economics of culture operation.

3. Secondary data were collected from various Fisheries Research Institutes and the Fisheries Department, Government of Kerala to derive the income trends for the various gear types in Kerala.

4. Secondary data regarding the fish production trends of 28 quarters were collected to find out the seasonal variations based on time series forecasting models.

5. Secondary data from MPEDA were also used to analyse the importance of marine products export in the State of Kerala. Data collected from different sources were supplemented by holding discussions with the fishery experts of different research institutions.

Limitations

The study is subjected to many limitations. The major limitation is the availability of reliable and accurate data with reference to the economic performance of the industry. The mechanised boat owners invariably try to understand the catch and value of the products and overstate their economic problems. There is wide variation in the catch data of the artisanal sector from one source to another.

Plan of the Study

Chapter I gives the origin and development of the fishing industry, its methodology, scope and objectives of the various developmental issues. Chapter II examines
The study is an attempt to analyse the impact of inward remittances from the gulf countries on the economy of Kerala. The study is made with particular reference to Chawghat Taluk in Trichur District.

**Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are

(i) to estimate the quantum of remittances made by the emigrants.