

Antarctica Study Centre

4044. SHRI MANGARAJ MALLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up/propose to set up an Antarctica Study Centre and to acquire ice Breakers under the Antarctica Research Programme; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) when the next expedition to Antarctica is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. An Antarctic Study Centre is being set up to provide a national back-up for the Indian Antarctic Research Programme. The Centre is being organised to fulfil the following objectives;

- (i) to formulate national scientific programmes in Antarctica, and to provide logistic support for their organisation and implementation including Indian expeditions to Antarctica;
- (ii) to develop specialised laboratory facilities required to support Antarctic Research Programmes; and
- (iii) to create a repository of Antarctic samples, data and literature, and to catalyse and sustain multi-disciplinary research.

At present, there is no proposal to acquire an ice Breaker for the Antarctic Research Programme.

(b) The next expedition to Antarctica, which would be the tenth one, would sail from India in the third week of November, 1990.

Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan

4045. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and the autonomous body of the Sansthan are empowered to award degrees; and

(b) if so, under which authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Rule 12 (e) of Memorandum of Association the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan has the power to award degrees.

Defence Recruitment Teams

4046. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places visited by Defence recruitment teams during the year 1989-90, with the dates of the visit, zone-wise;

(b) the catchment area for each such place in terms of districts or parts thereof;

(c) the number of jawans recruited during each visit;

(d) the composition of the recruitment teams; and

(e) the number of registered applicants at each recruitment office as on 1 April, 1989 and 1 April, 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). The information is given in the statement-I. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1549/90]