

(c) and (d) State Government had sought permission for the prospecting licence for mining for the project, Department of Mines, Government of India, had accorded their approval to the same.

[English]

Research Ship 'Sagar Sampada'

1148. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research ship 'Sagar Sampada' which was sent to Arabian Sea to find out any evidence of pollution resulting from gulf war has indicated contamination of sea of any kind;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when was this oceanographic cruise undertaken and the names of scientists who were associated in the research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir. No evidence of pollution was found by the team which was sent for this investigation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cruise of Fisheries & Oceanographic Research Vessel "Sagar Sampada" was undertaken from 15th to 26th March, 1991. The scientific team was led by Dr. R. Sen Gupta, Deputy Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa and the names of the other Scientists are as follows:

I. *National Institute of Oceanography, Goa:*

Dr. S.P. Fondekar
Dr. P. V. Narvekar
Dr. K. Sawkar
Dr. P. Shirodkar
Shri R. Alagarsamy
Dr. S. G. P. Matondkar

Dr. Z. A. Ansari
Shri R. Vijaykumar
Dr. Elgar Desa
Shri R. G. Prabhu Desai
Shri Eurico Desa

II. *India Meteorological Department:*

Shri Y.E.A. Raj
Shri Kuldeep Wali

III. *Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin:*

Dr. K. J. Mathew
Shri I. R. Leopold
Shri R. Balakrishnan
Shri K. K. Sureshkumar

IV. *Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin:*

Shri M. S. Fernando

Upward revision of Margin on Essential Commodities

1149. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prescribed a margin for the supply of essential commodities;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been repeatedly requesting for the upward revision of the margin in the remote parts of tribal areas;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the margin; and

(d) if so, the date by which it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The State Governments and U.T. Administrations fix the margins for distribution of PDS rice and wheat with reference to the Central issue prices fixed by the Central Government. However, Central Government

has suggested suitable margin to dealers of these items in ITDP areas. Margins to dealers of sugar and imported edible oil are fixed by the Central Government. Margin to dealers of Kerosene is governed by the provisions of the kerosene (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Order 1970.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has proposed revision of margin for distribution of sugar. They have also asked for upward revision of margin on rice and wheat distributed in I.T.D.P. areas.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to increase the margin on distribution of rice and wheat in I.T.D.P. areas. The request for revision of margin for sugar is under consideration in the Ministry of Food.

Dearness Relief to Pensioners

1150. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference in the extent of neutralisation of dearness allowance at identical levels of pay/pension to the Central Government employees and the pensioners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to do away with the prevailing anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Neutralisation of the price rise is 100% to the pensioners drawing pension upto Rs. 1750/-, 75% to the pensioners in range of Rs. 1751/- to Rs. 3000/- and 65% to those pensioners who are drawing pension over Rs. 3000/-. The corresponding slabs for the serving employees are "upto Rs. 3500", "Rs. 3501/- to Rs. 6000/-" and "above Rs. 6000/-". Thus the dearness relief for the pensioners is calculated at the

same percentage as is applicable for calculating the dearness allowance on the pay of serving employees which would entitle them for the same amount of pension. The different slabs of pay/pension for the purpose of neutralisation of price rise and grant of dearness allowance to serving Central Government employees and dearness relief to Central Government pensioners were recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission and accepted by the Government.

(c) There is no anomaly in the present scheme of payment of dearness allowance/dearness relief. The present scheme ensures that in the event of any portion of dearness allowance being treated as dearness pay in future, the pension of future retirees with reference to pay plus dearness allowance will be exactly equal to the pension plus dearness relief of the persons who retired on the same pay before merger of dearness allowance.

Financial Assistance to States by NEHRU Centenary Celebration Committee

1151. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nehru Centenary Celebration Committee had agreed to extend financial help to the State Governments for setting up of Nehru Yuvak Kendras in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested for financial assistance for setting up such a Kendra in Lal Baug Palace, Indore; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Madhya Pradesh had, in August 1988, decided