

intent have since been treated as lapsed. The remaining letters of intent would be at various stages of implementation.

(d) Government is anxious to ensure early implementation of all the industrial projects for which letters of intent/licences have been issued. With this end in view, Administrative Ministries and the State Governments have been asked to re-structure and strengthen their administrative mechanism for monitoring the progress of letters of intent and industrial licences and help the entrepreneurs in implementing the projects as expeditiously as possible.

Krill Fishing in Antarctica

167. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Ocean Development proposes to promote Krill fishing in Antarctica ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ; ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Some samples of Krill have already been brought to India during the last three expeditions to Antarctica. It is proposed to use the recently acquired Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Vessel 'Sagar Sampada' for bringing larger quantities of Krill to India in 1985-86. The possibility of using it as human/animal food will thereafter be considered.

Deep Sea Mining in Indian Ocean

168. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the Government policy in regard to the development of deep sea mining in the Indian Ocean ; and

(b) the progress made so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ; ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). In pursuance of the Ocean Policy as enunciated in the Ocean Policy Statement, detailed exploration of polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean is being carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography Goa. The project has been sponsored by the Department of Ocean Development. After detailed survey in the Central Indian Ocean covering more than 3 million square Kilometres, 2 mine sites, each of an area of 150,000 sq. kms. and almost of equal commercial value have been identified. India, which has been recognised as a Pioneer Investor, has already filed an application with the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority for the allotment of one of the two sites as a pioneer area in the Indian Ocean. Research & Development work of mining of nodules, including the related work of the collection of environmental data would be taken up after the mine site has been allocated to India by the Preparatory Commission. It has also been possible to extract the metals (copper, nickel & cobalt) from the polymetallic nodules on a laboratory scale and the process is being upgraded.