

[English]

Exploitation of non-living resources of the sea bed

531. SHRI SYED SHAHABUD-DIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of exploitation of non-living resources of the sea-bed in our Exclusive Economic zone in the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean;

(b) the names of minerals, deposits of which have been identified in the zone in commercial quantities;

(c) the projects in operation, if any, for the mining; and

(d) the details of the Indian agency and foreign collaborators involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Exploration for non-living resources of the sea bed in our Exclusive Economic Zone has revealed the occurrence of ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite and calcareous sands. However, these mineral resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone do not appear to be commercially viable under present economic conditions and available technology.

(c) There are no projects in operation for mining of such minerals.

(d) Does not arise.

Garbage as fuel

532. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has evolved a scheme whereby Garbage collected from the cities can be converted into bricks for fuel;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and how far it has succeeded;

(c) the names of the cities in India where these pilot projects are presently working; and

(d) whether Pune City is also being considered for setting up of such a project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme to process municipal garbage into fuel pellets (not bricks) has been evolved.

(b) A pilot plant to produce fuel pellets from municipal garbage is being set up at Deonar, Bombay. Most of the civil works and erection of equipment is complete and now load trials are in progress.

(c) Deonar, Bombay.

(d) No, Sir.

Application for new industries in Kerala

533. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for issue of new licences for industries in Kerala during 1991; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Upto 15-7-1991, 19 applications were received for setting up of new industries in the State of Kerala. Out of these, Letter of Intent has already been issued in one case while two applications have been rejected. The remaining 16 applications are at various stages of processing.