

during April, 1995. Government has no specific information about the main points discussed at the Conference.

(c) T.B. is one of the opportunistic ailments associated with AIDS. A comprehensive strategy to bring infectious T.B. cases under treatment speedily and to take necessary preventive measures to control the transmission of HIV is currently under implementation.

Deep Sea Research

5968. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for deep sea research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the achievements made/likely to be made therefrom during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the expenditure incurred/proposed to be incurred thereon during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The programme of Deep Sea Research (Polymetallic Nodules Programme) has been taken up as partial fulfillment of obligation to United Nations as a Pioneer investor since 1987. This is a long-term programme for fulfillment of obligations. The action plan was drawn up on a year-to-year basis. The Department has now formulated an action plan in respect of survey and explorations in the Central Indian Ocean Basin and technology development (mining and extractive metallurgy) at a cost of Rs. 13.33 crores and Rs. 14.33 crores respectively for a period of 1994-97. The basic components of the deep sea research (Polymetallic Nodules) Programme are :

(a) Survey and Exploration

(b) Technology Development (Mining System)

(c) Technology Development (Extractive Metallurgy).

ACHIEVEMENTS

After the registration of India as a Pioneer investor, as a first step towards the development of various component of deep sea research, survey and exploration activities continued with the help of State of Art technologies. As a part of design and development of deep seabed mining technology, a prototype collector and bucket-in-pipe nodule lifting system have been designed, developed and tested in a shallow basin of 5 mtr. depth specially constructed for the purpose. In the field of extractive metallurgy, three of the fifteen process routes for extraction of metals have been

selected for upscaling, and two pilot plants have been commissioned. National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur NML and Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar [RRL (B)] completed six pilot plant campaigns and four pilot plant campaigns respectively so far. The data generated during the campaign is being analysed. Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur [HZL (U)] carried out laboratory scale studies for firming up process parameters.

ACTION PLAN

The activities to be taken up during the balance period of Eighth Plan are as follows :

(a) *Survey and Exploration* :

The activities of the programme for 1995-97 are bulk collection of nodules through dredging, free fall sampling and spot photography at closer grids, updating of geo-statistical resource evaluation, baseline oceanographic data collection, planning, design and commissioning of environmental impact assessment (EIA) study, resource development and upgradation in the field of EIA.

(b) *Technology Development (Mining)* :

The design and development of mining system would have to be done in stages. The mining programme has accordingly been designed to develop step by step to make the system operational at greater depths. This would involve upscaling, evaluation, testing and retesting of system over a period of time. The action plan includes design and development of an upgraded remotely operated vehicle (ROV), design and development of shallow bed mining system, etc.

(c) *Technology Development (Extractive Metallurgy)*:

The action plan has been concentrated on standardisation of flow-sheet including material balance information. National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur [NML (J)] and Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar [RRL (B)] would be carrying out pilot plant campaigns for firming up the process parameters. Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur [JZL (U)] would complete batch trial for firming up process parameters.

EXPENDITURE

Total approved cost of the deep sea research (Polymetallic Nodule) Programme for Eighth Plan is Rs. 35.77 crores of which Rs. 16.43 crores have been incurred during 1992-95.

Dental Care

5969. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large section of rural people are without proper dental care; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide dental care facility to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) :

(a) No such study has been conducted.

(b) Medical services in rural areas are provided by the State Governments through Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres.

IAF Contracts

5970. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether rate contract for breathing oxygen and industrial gases has been concluded by Indian Air Force in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any rate contract has also been concluded by DGS & D for same items to same specification during these years;

(d) if so, the reasons for concluding a rate contract by Air Force at higher rate than the rates given by DGS & D; and

(e) the amount of extra expenditure incurred by the Government by operating this contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The IAF has finalised Rate Contract, from November 1993 to October 1994 and November 1994 to October 1995, for supply of specific to type gases, which are used on aircraft in the IAF inventory.

(c) On decentralisation of procurement by DGS & D, with effect from 4 Nov, 93 onwards, the IAF is concluding contracts for the above mentioned sophisticated gases specific to type for Air Force and Navy as envisaged vide Government of India, Deptt. of Supply, Ministry of Commerce letter No. P.III-1/(20)/91 dated 30 Dec 91 and DGS & D No. D letter M-6/RC-3094/Sop Gases/93-95/56 dated 12 May 93.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Defence Land

5971. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to provide the land belonging to the Ministry of Defence to the Bombay Municipal Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The State Government had requested for two pieces of defence land measuring 0.0691 acres

and 0.7461 acres near Kandivali Station for the construction of an overbridge. There was an additional request for two other pieces of land-1.5 acres located north of the proposed overbridge and 2.33 acres of land located east of the railway line on the ground that these lands were reserved in the Development plan of BMC as recreation ground. The Ministry of Defence have agreed to the transfer of all the above four pieces of land on the payment of current market value. We have not received any response from the State Government to this offer.

UNICEF

5972. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received UNICEF Report, 1994 concerning child welfare;

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. "The State of the World Children 1994" published by UNICEF recommends elimination of neonatal tetanus, reduction of measles morbidity by 90% and mortality by 95% achievement of 80% ORT use rate for diarrhoeal disease, eradication of polio myolites, elimination of iodine deficiency disorders success of 'Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative', elimination of guinea worm and achievement of 80% immunization in all countries by end of 1995.

(c) Under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme launched in 1992 and National Plan of Action adopted in 1992 issues related to child survival, development and welfare are being addressed.

R.G.N.D.W.M.

5973. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM);

(b) whether the Mission has achieved its objectives;

(c) the steps taken to accelerate the work pertaining to the Mission;

(d) whether the Mission has any proposal to divert its activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : (a) Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking water Mission aims at providing adequate and safe