

Public Grievances and Pensions does not arise.

New process for extraction of metal

6832. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new process for extraction of metal from the polymetallic nodules of the Indian Ocean has been developed in India; 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, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) & (b) Several processes for the extraction of metals from the polymetallic nodules collected from the Central Indian Ocean are being tried on a semi pilot scale in several laboratories of India like the Regional Research Laboratory (Bhubaneswar), National Metallurgical Laboratory (Jamshedpur), Hindustan Zinc Limited (Udaipur), Hindustan Copper Limited (Khetri and Ghatshila). These processes follow hydrometallurgical and pyrometallurgical techniques and are the modified versions of those employed elsewhere. Copper, Nickel and Cobalt have already been extracted in pure form from the nodules

on a laboratory scale.

Increased financial assistance for States

6833. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided to increase the financial assistance to the States during next year for the exploration of their plans;

(b) if so, the amount of loans and grants sanctioned by Union Government to each State for the current year; and

(c) the criteria for fixing up the plan outlay for the current year of the Seventh Five Year Plan for various States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The outlays for States Plans are normally determined on the basis of States' own resources and the level of Central assistance admissible to them (i) on the basis of Modified Gadgil Formula as approved by the NDC and (ii) for externally aided projects, wherever they are taken up.

Statement

Central Assistance actually released in 1985-86 for State Plans.

(Rs. lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	Normal Central assistance		Assistance for Externally aided Projects	
		Loan	Grant	Loan	Grants
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22587.600	9680.400	528.626	226.554
2.	Assam	26441.800	13792.200	317.982	136.278
3.	Bihar	36725.500	15739.500	1020.327	437.283