

[Translation]

**Rehabilitation of ex-soldiers and youth
in uninhabited Islands**

6889. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of islands in the country which have no human population and number of such islands in Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep, separately;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme to rehabilitate ex-soldiers and other progressive unemployed youths there with a view to develop these island; and

(c) if so, the outline of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) According to the 1981 census, the number of islands having no human population is 150. The figures of uninhabited islands in the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands were not given in the 1981 census. According to the latest information obtained from the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, total number of named uninhabited islands/islets is 153 in Andaman and Nicobar and 17 in Lakshadweep.

(b) At present there is no scheme to rehabilitate ex-soldiers and other progressive unemployed youth on these islands.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Cruises of research vessels

6890. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cruises made by "Sagar Kanya" and important data collected since its purchase;

(b) whether his Ministry plans to purchase any more new research vessels; and

(c) if so, the purpose the new vessel is likely to serve ?

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) Sagar Kanya has so far completed 24 cruises in the Indian Ocean. During these cruises, valuable information on monsoon dynamics, ocean circulation, heat budget and fertility of the Exclusive Economic Zone has been obtained and these are being correlated with the availability of living and non-living resources in the seas around India. The ship also carried out tidal measurements in the deep sea for the tidal power project of the Central Electricity Authority of India and monitoring of pollution in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, Scientific data for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission from the offshore oilfield and for the Navy were obtained in addition to the survey of nodules in the Central Indian Ocean.

(b) Yes Sir. One coastal research vessel is being planned through Danish assistance.

(c) This vessel would be used for developing an effective coastal management programme related to (a) bathymetric surveys, measurement of currents, waves and tides, (b) environmental monitoring along the coasts and estuaries and monitoring of marine pollution. The vessel will also be used for carrying out ship-board training of marine scientists in universities and R&D institutions in the country.

Legislation on hazardous substances

6891. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether comprehensive legislation on the manufacture, import, distribution and disposal of hazardous substances was to be adopted to plug the loopholes and