

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Indo-Pakistan talks on these matters were held in Lahore from the 8th to 10th September, 1987.

(b) It was decided to continue these discussions at a mutually convenient date.

Limenite Deposits Discovered by National Institute of Oceanography

732. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI:
DR. V. VENKATESH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute of Oceanography has discovered the biggest limenite deposits in the country off the Konkan Coast in Western Maharashtra ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has found large deposits of limenite off the Konkan Coast.

(b) Preliminary surveys in an area of 96 sq. kms. in 13 bays indicate 1 M thickness of sand and average limenite concentration of about 10 per cent.

Investment on Bio-Technology information Network

734. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a bio-technology information network;

(b) if so, the likely expenditure thereon;

(c) whether the network will provide a computer-based system for storage retrieval and dissemination of information; and

(d) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 13 Crores is made for this purpose.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Since modern Biotechnology comprises developments in a number of areas such as medicine, agriculture, engineering sciences as well as basic sciences, specialised databases are being established in 8 Distributed Information Centres. These centres will acquire and store for ready reference and retrieval all published papers, patents and other relevant information including technical manpower for specific areas of Biotechnology. These centres will be inter-connected between themselves and with more than 20 user centres in the country through networking for providing ready information on an on-line or off line basis. The databases and information will be useful to academic, research and development and industrial personnel.

(Translation)

Steps to end Scavenging

735. SHRIMATI MIERA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister had written to all the Chief Ministers some month ago to end the system of carrying garbage on the head and for the mechanisation of scavenging;

(b) if so, the reaction of State Governments to the suggestion; and

(c) the target date for implementation of the suggestion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHR GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) All the State Government have agreed to give top priority to this programme and draw up a time-bound programme according to the feasibility of implementation in each State.