

Where it is decided to nationalise the undertaking, its management may be taken over under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, for a period of six months to enable the Government to take necessary steps for nationalisation.

Purchase of equipments for Expedition to Antarctica

5076. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposed to purchase new sophisticated equipments and ships for ocean research and development programmes and further expeditions to Antarctica in near future ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) when these equipments will reach our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is proposing to purchase ships and equipment for ocean research and development. The question of the next expedition to Antarctica will be decided soon.

(b) The Department of Ocean Development is acquiring an oceanographic research vessel equipped with various kinds of oceanographic equipment from Federal Republic of Germany. A Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Vessel is also being procured under the Danish Aid Programme for conducting fisheries and oceanographic research.

(c) The Oceanographic Research Vessel from Federal Republic of

Germany is expected to arrive by June, 1983. The Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Vessel is likely to arrive towards the end of 1984.

Analysis of Metal Nodules

5077. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our Scientists have done chemical analysis of the metal nodules received during the first ocean expedition undertaken last year ;

(b) if so, the achievements expected on this analysis reports ; and

(c) whether our laboratories have also recommended some process to explore these minerals on commercial basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Results on the analysis on minerals are being finalised and will be available within this year.

(c) Our laboratories are still working on the commercial feasibility of marine minerals and their final reports have not been received.

Manufacture of Tapes

5078. SHRI PARTAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have granted new licences for the manufacture of different varieties of magnetic tapes used in the manufacturing of tape cassettes;