

योजना मंत्री (श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण) :

(क) पहाड़ी क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम और रेगिस्तान विकास कार्यक्रम का विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों के संदर्भ में अपना महत्व है। तदनुसार दोनों कार्यक्रमों का उल्लेख पंचवर्षीय योजना के दस्तावेज में है।

(ख) यह सच है कि पंचवर्षीय योजना में पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए 170 करोड़ रु० का प्रावधान था और छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में 560 करोड़ रु० है। पहाड़ी क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम पांचवी योजना के आरम्भ अर्थात् 1974-75 से जारी है। रेगिस्तान विकास कार्यक्रम 1977-78 में आरम्भ किया गया था। वर्ष 1977-78 से 1979-80 तक इस कार्यक्रम पर 23.21 करोड़ रु० खर्च हुए। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में रेगिस्तान विकास कार्यक्रम के लिए 50 करोड़ रु० हैं। इस प्रकार इसमें पर्याप्त वृद्धि हुई है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

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Ocean Mining

4946. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's long term plans for ocean mining which yields valuable mineral like copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese are estimated to cost the exchequer around Rs. 1000 crores by 1993-95;

(b) if so, whether experts feel that the Department of Ocean Development would need expenditure at this level for nodule mining operation; and

(c) if so, what are the schemes that will be taken up by the Department of Ocean Development to yield valuable minerals from the ocean and how much has been provided during 1983 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Estimates of expenditure on ocean mining are yet to be worked out.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 9.60 crores have been provided in the budget for 1983-84 for sea-bed survey and development of suitable mining systems.

Cement Controller's letter to SIDECO

4948. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Controller of Cement has questioned the move of the Small Scale Industries Development and Employment Corporation (SIDECO) to close down the Corporation's outlets to sell the imported cement and to hand over the sale to private firms since it amounts contrary to Centre's Cement Trade Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of SIDECO thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b). Under the Import and Export Policy 1982-83, cement is allowed to be imported under Open General Licence on selective basis by the State Trading Corporation of India, New Delhi and the designated agencies of the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations. The importing agencies are to import cement on account of 'actual users' only who may register their specific demands with the importing agencies. On receipt of report to the effect that Messrs Kerala Small Scale Industries Development and Employment Corporation, Kerala were appointing dealers/stockists for sale of imported cement, the provisions of the Import Policy were brought to the notice of the State Corporation by the Cement Controller. No reply has so far been received from the State Government/Corporation.