

(SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) 'Police' being a State subject in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the recommendations of the National Police Commission have been referred to all State Govts./U.T. Administrations for consideration and taking appropriate action. The examination of such of the recommendations as concern the Central Government has been taken up.

Acquisition of Samudra Manthan Ship for Exploration

657. SHRI NARAYAN CHOU-BEY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have acquired a Ship "Samudra Manthan" for exploring Ocean-bed for minerals;

(b) what are the proposed explorations that are to be conducted by the ship;

(c) what will be the area of its operation; and

(b) what are the expected benefits from the operation of the ship ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The ship has been acquired by the Geological Survey of India for geoscientific exploration of the sea-bed.

(b) and (c) The ship will be used for carrying out geological surveys and exploration of the sea-bed in the Territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

(d) The main purpose of the exploration to be undertaken by "Samudra Manthan" is to acquire better knowledge of the sea-bed and its mineral potential.

Agreement Between India and U.S.S.R. on Sea-Bed Mining

658. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Soviet Union have reached an agreement on sea-bed sites for prospecting;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) the broad prospects for sea-bed mining and the progress made in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) The representatives of India and Soviet Union who met in New Delhi on April 29 and 30, 1983 discussed and came to the conclusion that the USSR is applying to the Preparatory Commission for registration and allocation of a pioneer area in *Pacific Ocean*. India, on the other hand, intends to apply to the Preparatory Commission for registration and allocation of a pioneer area in the *Central Indian Ocean*. Both these actions are in pursuant to the resolution governing the preparatory investment in pioneer activities relating to polymetallic nodules. The areas in respect of which the USSR intends to apply to the Preparatory Commission do not overlap with our areas. There was thus no conflict or controversy between the two countries in this regard. The Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority was informed accordingly.

(c) Prospects for sea-bed mining would depend on the future prices of metals and the processing and mining technologies which are yet to be developed.

Stay of Execution of Prisoners by Supreme Court

659. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has stayed the execution of several condemned prisoners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of persons awaiting execution in different jails; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter and the decision of Government with regard to the most humane way of execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) to (d) There are 34 condemned prisoners whose mercy petitions have been rejected by the President. They are awaiting execution. Of these, the execution of 26 prisoners has been stayed by the Supreme Court, on the filing of writ petitions. The Union of India has received notices in 9 of these petitions, in which a common ground is a challenge to the constitutional validity of execution of death sentences by hanging. The petitions will come up for hearing on 2nd August, 1982, and the Government is taking steps to contest these petitions. The question of taking a decision with respect to any other method of execution will depend on the observations that the Supreme Court might make on the subject.

Progress of Daitari Steel Plant

660. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Soviet Union have shown interest in a collaborative project upto primary stage in Daitari Steel Plant in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present and the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) At the meeting of Indo-Soviet Joint Commission held in Moscow in September, 1982, the two sides exchanged views about possibilities of Soviet participation in the construction of the proposed steel plant in Orissa. However, no firm offer of assistance/collaboration has been received from the Soviet authorities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

"Prevention & Control of Water Pollution Act"

661. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review the Water (Prevention and Control of Water Pollution) Act;

(b) if so, the amendments proposed to be made; and

(c) how far it will go in checking industrial and other pollution in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution has constituted a Committee to review the amendments suggested by the State Boards and experts. The Committee has yet to finalise its report. The suggested amendments relate to simplifying the implementation procedure, strengthening the functional competence of the Boards, amending the Rules and giving financial support to abatement measures.

Setting up of Alumina Factory in Andhra Pradesh

662. SHRI P. RAJAGOAL NAIDU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :