

(c) Some of the plans of the Department of Ocean Development for research in the ocean exploration during the IX Plan are as follows :

- (i) Exploration for assessment and evaluation of polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin on a progressively reducing grid. Sampling on 12.5 KM grid has been completed.
- (ii) Development of a demonstration plant for exploring generation of energy from the ocean on the principle of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).
- (iii) Exploration of marine Living Resources beyond 70 metre depth using Fishery and Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Sampada of the Department and to correlate the oceanographic parameters with the abundance of resources and determining optimal exploitation policies.
- (iv) Application of Ocean Remote Sensing to explore the potential of oceans and coastal zone for sustainable development of the resources.
- (v) Demonstration of shallow bed mining technology upto 500 metre water depth which could be upgraded for deep sea mining of polymetallic nodules in the future.

#### **Pending Schemes of Kerala**

19. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects submitted by Government of Kerala to the Union Government pending for clearance.

(b) if so, since how long these projects are pending with the Union Government; and

(c) the time by which a final decision on these projects is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Planning Commission have no projects pending for clearance.

#### **Updating the Estimate Cost of Project**

20. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have worked out a uniform methodology for updating the estimated cost of projects and schemes costing Rs. 50 crores and above undertaken by various Ministries and Public Enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the broad features of the comprehensive plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of detailed guidelines issued to all the Financial Advisers of Central Ministries/Departments is enclosed as statement.

#### **Statement**

Dr. Ahmad Masood  
Adviser (PAMD)  
3710474

D.O.No. M-12016/5/97-PAMD  
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Dear

Please refer to my d.o. letter of even number dated January 12, 1998 communicating decision taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 29.12.1997 regarding the yearly updation of project cost (in respect of projects costing Rs. 50 crores and above) and communicating the result of such updation to the Planning Commission before the Annual Plan exercise.

2. Subsequent to the issue of the aforesaid letter, queries have been received from various Ministries/Departments in regard to the applicability of this decision to the plan schemes and method of updation. As regards scope of the decision, it would apply to all central sector plan schemes/projects costing Rs. 50 crores and above, be they owned by Government or by the Public Sector Undertakings.

3. In order to ensure that uniform methodology is adopted for updation, we have prepared indicative guidelines in consultation with Department of Expenditure and Department of Programme Implementation on yearly updation of cost estimates. Whereas Annexure-I to the guidelines indicates steps involved in the updation of project cost in a typical year, Annexure-II gives the format for reporting the results of such updation.

4. Cost estimates have to be updated every year upto August level (of that year). The exercise of updation of project cost may be undertaken w.e.f. Financial Year 1999-2000. Updation of project cost for the year 1999-2000 should be completed before October, 1998 and incorporated in the Annual Plan proposals 1999-2000 of your Ministry/ Department and also separately communicated to the Planning Commission in the proforma given at Annexure-II well before the Annual Plan discussions so as to enable the Planning Commission to take into account the project-wise funds requirement in recommending plan allocations to the Ministry of Finance.

5. A copy of the result of updation may also be endorsed to the Department of Programme Implementation. Further, the list of projects/schemes where the revised cost estimates requires fresh approval of EFC/PIB/CCEA may be forwarded