

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1530
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2000
AGRAHAYANA SAKA EXPLORATION OF SEA WATER
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of ocean activities undertaken in the country during each of the last three years;
- (b) the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether underwater exploration activities have slowed down during the said period;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for the exploration of water activities in the ocean?

Answer

MINISTER FOR OCEAN DEVELOPMENT

(DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b) & (e) : The ocean activities undertaken in the country including Research & Development efforts are an on-going process. The Department of Ocean Development has been coordinating the ocean activities in the following areas.

- I. Antarctic Science
- II. Marine Living Resources
- III. Marine Non-living Resources
- IV. Ocean Observation and Information Services
- V. Marine and Coastal Area Management
- VI. Marine Research and Capacity Building

Some of the major milestones/achievements/outcomes of these programmes in the last three years are:

(i) Continuation of the annual Antarctic expedition and related polar research activities through the launching of annual expeditions and maintaining a permanent scientific station, Maitri.

(ii) Continuation of mission mode programmes of National Institute of Ocean Technology in areas of Ocean Energy, Deep Sea Mining technology, Coastal and Environmental Engineering, Marine Instrumentation.

(iii) A multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional programme for assessment of the marine living resources beyond 70 meter depth within the Indian EEZ.

(iv) Enhancing capability and capacity in ocean observing system by operationalising the National Data Buoy Programme by deploying 12 data buoys for collection and dissemination of oceanographic and meteorological data on real time basis.

(v) A dedicated Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services set up at Hyderabad in February, 1999. This Centre will generate and disseminate

ocean data products to user agencies on operational basis.

(vi) Research & Development Programme of drugs from sea particularly anti-diabetic, anti-viral, anti-amoebic, anti-anxiety.

(vii) Initiation of Delineation of Outer Limits of Continental Shelf to extend India's jurisdiction in the ocean beyond EEZ for resource augmentation and exploitation.

(viii) Implementation of Coastal Ocean Monitoring & Prediction System programme and operation and maintenance of Coastal Research Vessels for monitoring marine pollution in a systematic manner.

(ix) Capacity building for Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) and preparation of ICMAM Plans for selected areas.

(x) Design and finalisation of engineering parameters for construction/procurement of various systems and sub-systems for establishment of a floating 1 MW Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) technology demonstration plant off the coast of Tuticorin.

(xi) Demonstration of the deep sea mining system developed under a joint collaboration programme at a water depth of 410m off Tuticorin, for the first time.

(xii) Improved ROV capable of operating upto 250 m. depth was designed, fabricated and tested in the sea off Chennai coast.

(xiii) An Acoustic Tide Gauge designed and fabricated indeigenously was deployed at Chennai port and Port Blair.

(xiv) A wide band acoustic sub-bottom profiler transducer has been successfully designed, fabricated and tested.

(xv) A proto-type of Acoustic Pinger was developed and tested at a depth of 700 m.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.