

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:390
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Institute for Ocean Development found underwater ruins off the coast of Gujarat recently;
- (b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;
- (c) since when the Institute has been doing this research;
- (d) whether any other sites has been located by this Institute in different offshore areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

- (a) : Yes, Sir. The name of the Institute is National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).
- (b): NIOT while carrying out multidisciplinary underwater surveys off Gujarat coast during October, 2000- March, 2001, located these archaeological sites in the Gulf of Cambay at 30 to 40 m water depth. This site is seen to extend presently over a length of 9 km west of Hazira. During surveys NIOT came across a stretch of formations, typical of the riverine regime in the middle of the sea. The state of the art side scan surveys have picked up images that reveal excellent geometric objects which are normally man made. The area is seen to be lined with well laid house basement like features partially covered by sand waves and ripples.
- (c): NIOT does not take up archeological surveys. The underwater water ruins were noted while NIOT was undertaking surveys for another purpose.
- (d): No, sir.
- (e): Does not arise.