

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1537
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2006
EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES NEAR GUJARAT COAST
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of ocean activities undertaken near Gujarat coast during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the pace of under water exploration activities have slowed down during the said period;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa has carried out following activities near Gujarat coast in the area of underwater exploration for marine archeology during last three years:

- (i) 2003-04: Onshore exploration at Porbander, Gopnath and Mithi Viradi (Talaja Taluka) was carried out. Indication of ancient harbour and some stone anchors were found.
- (ii) 2004-05: Underwater exploration was carried out off Miyani (Harshadmata) and Visvada (Mul Dwarka). Existence of ancient port and anchoring points were found during the exploration. A coastal site was excavated near Porbander Creek and a site dating back to 2nd Millennium BC was found.
- (iii) 2005-06: Underwater explorations at Miyani and Visvada were continued to obtain more details. Near shore exploration was carried out at Pindara and ancient submerged temple was located.

(b) There is no slow down in the work.

(c) & (d) do not arise.