

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:415
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
OCEAN TECHNOLOGY
Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is promoting appropriate technology for ocean development activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take fresh initiatives for the development of the ocean technology in our country, that would deliver accurate sub-ocean data;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the funds allocated for the current plan period for this purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 415 ASKED BY SHRI SIVASAMI C. FOR ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2010

(a)-(b) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Earth Sciences has been promoting technology for ocean developmental activities. Towards this endeavour, a dedicated state-of-the art centre was established at Chennai "National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)" in 1993. The technology developmental activities being of NIOT cover five major areas (1) Fresh water & Energy generation from the sea (2) Mining equipment for exploitation deep sea mineral resources (3) Sensors and ocean platforms required for acquisition of real-time data from the sea around India (4) Devices required for harnessing Living Resources (5) Ocean engineering solutions for coastal developmental activities. In addition, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been promoting technologies primarily in the area of marine biotechnology and underwater vehicles. The Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory, Kochi of Defence Research and Development Organisation working in the area of underwater acoustics and underwater surveillance, has helped Indian industries to manufacture winches, underwater armoured tow cables, underwater bodies, underwater communication devices etc.

(c)&(d) Research and Development in Ministry of Earth Sciences is an on-going activity. In the XIth Plan, under the ongoing programme on ocean observation networks, it is proposed to install 200 Argo floats in Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean for obtaining sub-sea data on salinity and temperature. Till date, 178 Argo floats have been installed.

(e) Allocation of Rs. 55 crores have been made during XIth Plan for the ongoing programme on ocean observation networks.