

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:359
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
CONTINENTAL SHELF PROGRAMME
Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Continental Shelf Programme has been launched in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total amount of funds spent and achievement made so far since inception, year-wise; and
- (c) the details of activities undertaken by the Government during the last three years; year-wise?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The project on Delineation of Outer Limits of Continental Shelf commenced during November 1999, as a multi-institutional national mission to gather, analyse and document the requisite scientific and technical information that would help define the country's extended shelf boundaries beyond 200 nautical miles (M) as per provisions of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). A comprehensive multi-institutional marine geophysical survey and data analysis programme comprising state-of-the-art multi-channel seismic reflection, refraction, gravity and magnetic data profiling was undertaken. Around 31,000 km of seismic reflection, gravity and magnetic data were collected in adjoining seas. In addition, for the first time in the country, 90 state-of-the-art Ocean Bottom Seismometers (OBS) were successfully deployed along several seismic transects to constrain the velocities from the reflection data as well as to develop a crustal model of the area. On the 11th May 2009, India submitted to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), the country's first partial submission for an extended continental shelf beyond 200 M under the provisions of Article 76 of UNCLOS. On the 16th August 2010, a six-member delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) made a formal presentation of India's submission before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf at the UN Headquarters, New York. The year wise details are provided below:

Period	Funds Released	Achievements
(Rs Crores)		
1997-98	0.00	Consolidation of available data with Geological
1998-99	0.04	Survey of India and National Hydrographic
1999-2000	0.50	Organisation, Planning of seismic data acquisition
2000-01	0.00	program and finalization of parameter
2001-02	25.00	specifications.
2002-03	18.00	Acquisition of geographical data including seismic
2003-04	16.23	reflection and seismic refraction.
2004-05	0.00	Data processing, data analysis, data interpretation
2005-06	0.00	and preparation of charts, maps etc.
2006-07	0.00	
2007-08	0.62	
2008-09	1.00	Preparation of documents for submission of India.
2009-10	1.00	India submitted to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), the country's first partial submission for an extended continental shelf beyond 200 M under the provisions of Article 76 of UNCLOS on 11th May 2009.
2010-11	0.90	Formal presentation of India's submission before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf at the UN Headquarters, New York.
2011-12	0.48	Setting up of data inventorisation system and data archival system.
2012-13	0.00	Inputs were provided to Ministry of External Affairs on India-Bangladesh maritime boundary matters. Further clarification pertaining to India's 1st partial submission were provided to United Nations
2013-14	9.33	Planning of data acquisition including finalization of specifications of data acquisition parameters.
2014-15	30.81	Acquisition of additional scientific data from the Indian continental margins for preparation of India's 2nd partial submission.
Total	107.43	

(c) During year 2012-13, inputs were provided to Ministry of External Affairs on India- Bangladesh maritime boundary matters. Further clarification pertaining to India's 1st partial submission were provided to United Nations. Planning of data acquisition including finalization of specifications of data acquisition parameters was carried out during 2013-14. Acquisition of additional scientific data from the Indian continental margins has been initiated in 2014-15 for preparation of India's 2nd partial submission.