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Title: Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 128th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to Department of Ocean Development.

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12.04 ¼ hrs

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THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

*I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the one hundred twenty eighth report of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Ocean Development as per the direction of the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, issued vide Rajya Sabha Bulletin – Part II, dated 28th September, 2004.

The Standing Committee examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Ocean Development, for the year 2004-05 and presented their report in this regard to the Rajya Sabha 26th August, 2004 and the same was also laid in the Lok Sabha 26th August, 2004.

The 128th Report of the Standing Committee contained 22 recommendations which were considered by the Government and Action Taken Reports (ATRs) prepared for the consideration of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee noted / appreciated the action taken in respect of nine recommendations. In one recommendation (No .2) relating to Polar Science (Antarctic Research), the standing committee was fully convinced about the

* Statement was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2237/05).

quality of the research work undertaken so far under the uninhabited and inhospitable conditions. However, the Standing Committee strongly recommended to undertake basic and in depth researches in the fields/areas, the Antarctic Glaciology, Ozone – hole issues, geological and geophysical investigation of three mountains, Antarctic microbes, Antarctic pollution, Krill biology and auroral phenomenon. Research in these areas/fields suggested by the Standing Committee has already been taken/is being taken as per the mandated/approved Antarctic Programme.

The Standing Committee has given its valuable comments observations on the Action Taken Reports in Respect of remaining 12 recommendations.

The Standing Committee considered the Action Taken Reports on all the 22 recommendations contained in its 128th Report and presented its views in its 138th Report presented to both the Houses on 17.3.2005. The action as proposed by the Standing Committee has been initiated and is in progress.
