

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Government of Assam and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Expeditions Undertaken by
National Institute of Oceanography**

2809. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of expeditions undertaken by the National Institute of Oceanography, Panaji, Goa so far;
- (b) the main objectives and achievements made by each expedition; and
- (c) the details of expeditions proposed to be undertaken with or without foreign collaboration, separately in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, had organised the first Indian Expedition to Antarctica in the year 1981. Thereafter the Department of Ocean Development is organising the expeditions to Antarctica.

- (b) The main objectives of the first expedition were to: explore the ocean around antarctica - South of 40° S-in the Indian ocean sector; explore the possibility of landing on icy continent if climate favours and ship can search the landing through pack ice; establish a summer station on icy shelf; and initiate scientific work on climate, glaciology, biology, ionosphere and geomagnetism on the Antarctic continent.

The significant achievements of the first expedition were related to: setting up an unmanned station "Dakshin Gangotri"; setting up an Automatic Weather Monitoring system with indigenous solar panels to record data on magnetic tapes; carrying out work on oceanography, meteorology, geology, geomagnetism and glaciology of the area; collecting rock samples from the outcrops and conducting continuous echosounding magnetic field intensity and other geophysical studies. The whole exercise was carried out as "Operation Gangotri".

- (c) Presently there is no proposal for any expedition to be undertaken with or without foreign collaboration by NIO.

[Translation]

Setting up of the NTPC at Korba

2810. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of private land acquired for setting up of National Thermal Power Corporation at Korba;
- (b) the number of families displaced due to the acquisition of lands;

(c) whether the displaced persons have been given employment; and

- (d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) acquired 2392.90 acres of private land for Korba Super Thermal Power Station.

- (b) 907 families were affected.

(c) and (d) 318 persons from the affected families of Korba have been provided employment in NTPC.

Power Plants involve limited direct employment opportunities. They create down-stream employment and productivity. NTPC has also been initiating self-income generating schemes for the affected populations of projects through award of petty contracts to land oustees co-operatives/groups, jobs with NTPC contractors, setting-up of ash brick plants for operation by land oustees, financing and engaging of 4 wheelers (jeeps/ambulances/tractor trolley) on hire with NTPC, dairy farming and shop allotment.

Uniformity in Education

2811. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government have any scheme to implement a uniform elementary, secondary and higher education in the country; and

- (b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) In terms of the existing National Educational Policy, the Government have accepted the concept of a National System of Education which implies that, up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. Under this common educational structure, the system of 10+2+3 has been accepted throughout the country. The National Curricular Framework also contains a common core alongwith other components that are flexible.

The policy also envisages inter-regional mobility in higher education in general and technical education in particular by providing equal access to every Indian of requisite merit, regardless of this origins.

[English]

Tissue Culture

2812. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which Tissue Culture has been