

further action for *ipso facto* entering into such an agreement does not arise.

Illegal Immigrants 13

1959. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign citizens who entered India illegally without any passport and apprehended during the last ten month; and

(b) the names of the courts where the cases against such persons have been filed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Powers of the Central Government under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to identify, detect and deport foreign nationals residing illegally in various parts of the country have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and no data in this regard is Centrally maintained. The Government is, however, aware of the problem of foreign nationals who enter India surreptitiously from neighboring countries and are residing illegally in various parts of the country. Instructions have been issued/reiterated to the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to intensify efforts to identify and deport foreign nationals staying in the country illegally.

Under Water Cultural Heritages

1960. SHRI MADHAV RAQ PATIL;
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL.

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the unique distinction of having the richest underwater cultural heritage;

(b) if so, the details of marine archaeological activities undertaken during the last three years and the findings thereof;

(c) whether these underwater research activities had slowed down during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per studies and research done, India has a rich underwater cultural heritage. However, it is not conclusively established that the underwater cultural heritage of India is the richest in the world.

(b) As per information readily available the major marine archaeological activities undertaken during the last three years include.

- (i) Marine Archaeological exploration at Poompuhar on the Tamil Nadu Coast.
- (ii) Marine Archaeological explorations off Dwarka, Bet Dwarka and Somnath.
- (iii) Marine Archaeological exploration and excavation of ship wrecks on the West Coast of India.

The findings reported in respect of the above explorations are:

Poompuhar Project:

There are several reports in the ancient literature about the existence of the port city of Poomphar in the beginning of the Christian era.

Various artefacts were retrieved from the waters like dressed stone blocks, potsherds of early historical period (300 B.C. to 300 A.D.) Geophysical explorations carried out revealed a submerged palaeochannel of the river Kaveri in the north of Poompuhar; the width of the channel varies from 300 m to 500 m and it is buried 20 m below the sea bottom.

A significant achievement of Poompuhar underwater exploration is the discovery of a large shipwreck which carried a huge quantity of lead ingots dated 1791 and 1792 A.D. and inscribed W Blackett which could be the name of the company manufacturing or dealing in lead ingots.

Dwarka Explorations:

At Dwarka a total of approx. 9,80,000 Sq. Meters coastal areas was explored between the water depth of 3 to 12 M since 1983. A number of submerged stone

(building) blocks, remains of wall, pillar and bastion, stone-anchors of various types (three-holed, prismatic and triangular) have been recovered. Geophysical survey indicates the submerged channels of a river Gomati at least upto 500 m offshore.

The onshore explorations in nearby bet Dwarka region revealed the presence of late Indus seal depicting 3 headed animal, earthen vessels inscribed in the characters of Indus-Brahmi transition phase of about 1500 B.C. and the large quantity of pottery including lustrous red ware bowl and the red ware dishes, dish-on-stand, perforated jar and incurved bowls which are datable to 1600-1500 B.C. in Dwarka, Rangpur and Prahas.

During the recent investigations, large number of stone anchors have been located in Dwarka, Bet Dwarka and Aramada region, implying thereby that the region was under active navigation during late Harappan period.

Shipwrecks in West Coast of India—Goa Waters

- (i) The marine archaeological explorations at Sunchi Reef near Amee Shoal around 2 Km away from Marmagoa Port has revealed a wreck in 3 to 9 metre water depth. A number of dressed granite blocks, four cannons each 2 metre long, a cast iron cannon ball, pieces of glass bottle and potuary are the important findings from the wreck. All the cannons were lying on rock granite blocks and cannons were covered with baranacle growth and other sea organisations.
- (ii) The underwater exploration on the eastern side of St. George Reef, very close to famous Grade Island also revealed a shipwreck in 10 to 15 metre water depth containing various types of terra-cotta artefacts such as bricks, roofing, wail fixing and flooring tiles, at times, inscribed "Baselmision tile Works 1865" and a number of household decorative materials. The timber of the ship was also noticed in between the rocks. The underwater metal detector survey revealed a steel hulled wreck in 5 to 6 metre water depth opposite the seminary located in a hillock. The wreck is buried in the sediment and a little part is visible.

The above marine archaeological exploration and excavation activities have been undertaken by the National Institute of Oceanography and funded by Department of

Ocean Development, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research and Government of Tamil Nadu.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, underwater archaeological exploration and excavation activities are expensive and time consuming. Necessary funds required for the projects are arranged through various Departments/agencies.

[Translation]

116
Fertilizer Policy

1961 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change its present policy in regard to setting up of new fertilizer plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee (HPC) has made recommendations regarding a new fertilizer policy covering *inter alia* the recommended policy regarding setting up of new fertilizer units. Inter-Ministerial consultations and dialogue with the industry have been undertaken in regard to the recommendations made by the High Powered Committee. A new fertilizer policy will be announced after conclusion of this exercise.

[English]

117
Sea Pollution

1962. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI FRANCISCO GARDINHA:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start several new projects to keep a watch on the sea water to check coastal pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time by which these are likely to be started; and