

**Employment in Industrial and Agricultural Sector**

7667. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level committee appointed by the Planning commission has suggested shifting of focus from jobs to productivity;

(b) if so, the main recommendations/ observations made by this committee for generating employment in the industrial and agricultural sectors; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to process the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Tie-Ups with Foreign countries for Ocean Development**

7668. SHRI PARASRAMBHARDWAJ:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made substantial progress in the field of ocean development;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to have tie-ups with some foreign countries in the field of ocean development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the names of countries being considered for

such tie-ups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Considerable progress has been made in the exploration of both living and non-living resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone of India as also of the deep seabed during the last three years. Thus,

(a) *Polymetallic Nodules Programme:*

On the strength of extensive survey and exploration work, a mine site of 150 thousand sq. km. area in the Central Indian Ocean was allocated to India in August, 1987 by the U.N. Preparatory commission of the International Seabed Authority, for further exploration and development of seabed nodules.

A project aimed at design and development of a deep seabed mining system has been generated with the help of various experts in the country with the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (Durgapur) as the lead agency.

Three process routes for extraction of metals like copper, nickel and cobalt from polymetallic nodules have been identified for further experimentation with a view to upgrading at least two of these to the pilot plant stage.

(b) *Antarctica:*

India has so far sent nine expeditions to Antarctica and has gathered a wealth of information about the icy continent.