

other is reformatory. Since crimes are unfortunately increasing disproportionately, we cannot, as far as adult crimes are concerned put the reformatory theory into practice to that extent. But at least as far as children are concerned, we have to take this policy of reformation seriously. Have you got any plans to engage any experts as far as reforming these children who are there in the custody are concerned ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : This is a part of our programme and policy; it is mainly reformatory. That is why we do not want to keep our children in jails and there are observation homes, about 106 special certified schools, 32 children homes, 142 fit person institutions, 39 after-care institutions. The total capacity of all the 546 institutions is 35994. These institutions are engaged in corrective measures.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : It is not only a question of those who have committed offences, but I had an occasion to raise in the other House about four years back a question. There were extreme cases where mothers were convicted and the children went to the mothers in the jails and they became major perhaps to remain in jails because they had no way to come out and settle somewhere. In spite of the fact that the government at that time assured me that this aspect of the question will be taken care of, it seems nothing has been done. Has the government taken care of those children who go to mothers to jails to remain as adults and then they cannot come back, because they have not got any shelter outside. Has the Government's attention been drawn to this; if so, what action Government has taken on this ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Government is aware of the seriousness of the situation; and in last May, 1985, the Prime Minister himself wrote letters to all the States about this problem; in that letter, it was stated that the children whose offences are of a minor nature are placed under the care of voluntary Probationary Officers or released on a licence or placed under the care of approved persons or institutions. Then you have asked about mothers and others. We have got such homes,

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I had asked a question where a mother has committed an offence but the children have to go to mothers and then for years together they remain there.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Mothers and children are also sometimes indicated in that. So, we are taking the whole thing. The problem is not an isolated one.

Indian Claim for Deep Sea Mining in Indian Ocean

*872. **SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian claim for deep sea mining in the Indian Ocean is still pending with the Preparatory Committee for Law of the Ocean;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to expedite recognition of this claim; and

(c) if so, when will the mining operations start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) India's application for registration and allocation of a pioneer area was filed on 10 January 1984 with the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. It is still pending with them.

(b) India has been very strongly emphasising the need for an early registration of its application at each session of the Commission.

(c) India's application can be cleared after the relevant rules, regulations and procedures have been established by the Commission. Commercial mining can take place only after the Convention has entered into force and the plan of work of each country has been approved by the International Seabed Authority.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : The application was made on 10th of January 1984 and since then it has been still pending. The reply is that the rules, regulations and the procedure have not yet been established. How long will this Preparatory Commission take to finalise rules, regulations and the procedure? Is it because of the opposition by the United States that these have not been finalised and the delay is occurring?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : As far as the Convention is concerned, it has yet to be ratified. 60 countries have to ratify it and only then it will come into force. As far as framing of rules, regulations and the procedure is concerned, it can be done after the agreement on the points which are in dispute today are resolved. There are applications for the areas from where sea nodules have to be harvested in the Pacific Ocean; one application is given by USSR; other is given by France; and the third one is given by third country and the areas are overlapping. On these overlapping areas there is no consensus. After the consensus is evolved, they would be able to frame the rules, regulations and the procedure. After that is done, then it will be possible for the Preparatory Commission to accept the application. After that the plan will be approved and action will be taken.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Is it not a fact that these four countries which have applied for being registered as investor countries, have also met in December, 1985 and exchanged their notes. They have come to the conclusion that the areas do not overlap. So, there is no difficulty on this point that the areas overlap and that has to be sorted out. The difficulty is that the rules and regulations are yet to be finalised. I wanted to know how long it will take. Are we making adequate preparations for mining or recovering of polymetallic nodules from the seabed, which are found at a depth of 6000 metres? Do you have the necessary equipment or not? Are you making that programme, because just now you have replied that sophisticated technologies are being developed by several countries and also by the International Seabed Authority and that it will take 15 years? Suppose, permission is given to you, will you be in

a position to mine the polymetallic nodules right now on commercial basis?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The exploitation of the sea resources is being taken up by the humanity now. The technologies are not there. Attempts are being made to develop the technology jointly under the International Seabed Authority and independently and separately by the nations and by the multinationals. That is what I said before. What is now tried to be done is that pioneer investor has to point out two areas. The information about one of the areas will be given. And information about the other area will be with the Seabed Authority. The pioneer investor is allowed to develop the technology, carry out the survey, collect knowledge and exchange it with others also. The fact remains that today we do not have perfect technology a technology which can be used on commercial scale. We have laboratory scale technology for bringing out nodules and for extracting metals also. The pilot level technology is being developed. The third stage is that of the commercial level. That has not reached in any country. Some of the multinational corporations are doing that. The United States of America does not agree to sign the convention whereas others have signed the convention.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH : The hon. Minister has said that the pioneer investor would select the site. As far as my knowledge goes, we have two sites on the eastern coast which have been found to have rich deposits of polymetallic nodules. I would like to know about the exploration that has been carried out since 1976 as has been stated in the earlier question, when 4 million square kilometres have been surveyed, how many sites have been found after this particular statement that two sites have been discovered?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We have to understand the International Law of Sea. On the open sea we are not having any sovereignty.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH : I am talking of exploratory sites and not mining sites.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We do not have any sovereignty over the open sea. There are two sites in the central Indian

Ocean which have been marked by us. We have given the information of these two sites to the Preparatory Commission in the international Seabed Authority. It is for the international authority to allow us to carry on experiments in that area, and after the permission is given we carry on experiments. We have surveyed 4 million sq. kilo metres of area and we have taken 1,200 photographs of that. Twelve hundred samples have been collected. We cannot take up other areas because even if we do that, we will not be allowed to have exclusive right in those areas...*(Interruptions)*, and if we do not have exclusive right in that area, we cannot do that. So, it is infructuous to carry on research in other areas because it is not allowed under the international law.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH : Sir, the nodules cannot be exploited but exploratory activities have been continuing since 1976. Two sites have been discovered. How many more have been discovered. That is what I asked.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This task of discovering the nodules from the sea is a very complicated one and a lot of money is needed. We have done the recovery in two areas. Out of two, only one will be allowed to us. There are other areas also in the Indian Ocean, in the Pacific Ocean and in the Atlantic Ocean also where the nodules are available. Scanty information is available to us. The question is, whether with that scanty information and with the funds available to us, even if we are going to be allowed to exploit only one area, is it wise to go on surveying other areas also when nothing is done with respect to one area also? So, now we are concentrating on those areas which are already explored and we are trying to develop the technology for bringing out the nodules and extracting the metal. Our direction is that. It is not that we are going to survey the entire ocean as such and then say where the nodules are available. We do have some information about other areas also.

Programmes to Enable Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Cross Poverty Line

*873. **SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA† :**
SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments in consultation with the Union Government have launched programmes to enable the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to cross the poverty line during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the names of such States and the target set by those States for the purpose;

(c) whether such programmes have been launched in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the progress made in Orissa so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement for the year 1985-86 is given below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As against the target of economically assisting 62,000 Scheduled Caste families and 75,000 Scheduled Tribe families during 1985-86 in Orissa, 72,248 Scheduled Caste families and 68,983 Scheduled Tribe families (upto February, 1986) were economically assisted.