

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Fund for development of ocean and earth sciences

†1174. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that setting up of human resource fund is being considered for infrastructure and development of the education for continuity and development of ocean and earth science;

(b) if so, by when this fund is expected to be set up; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to run the coordinated research and development work for the deep knowledge about earth and ocean?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal for setting up of Human Resource Fund. However, towards development of Human Resource for meeting the large requirement in the Ocean and Earth Science, the Ministry is formulating a proposal in Eleventh Five Year Plan to induct trained manpower with the help of concerned universities, and other Research and Development-(R&D) institutions. The provision of funds for manpower Development has been embedded in the respective programmes/institutes proposed for implementation during Eleventh Five Year Plan. Currently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences is supporting R&D in the field of Ocean and Atmospheric Science and Capacity Building programmes, primarily to develop Centres of Excellence in specialised fields and to strengthen the infrastructure available at nine Ocean and Atmospheric Science and Technology Cells in various Universities/National Laboratories. Two such Centres have been created in 'Marine Biology' at Annamalai University, Parangipettai and in 'Marine Microbiology' at Goa University, Goa.

(c) The institutions within the Ministry such as Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune; National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast, Noida; National Centre for Antractic and Ocean Research, Goa; Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad; and National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai; are coordinating a number of multi-institutional network research projects, like Indian Ocean Modelling and Dynamic project, are primarily for deep knowledge about earth and ocean.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.