

are estimated for Manganese — 92.59 MMT, Nickel — 4.70 MMT, Copper — 4.29 MMT, and Cobalt — 0.55 MMT. A first generation minesite has been identified on the basis of detailed survey. The Environmental Impact Assessment Study pertaining to the assessment of benthic impact and restoration of marine environment has also been completed. A pilot scale semi-continuous metallurgical plant was set up and the process package for extraction of metal values has been validated. The results indicated that the process efficiencies exceeded design basis. A prototype mining system was designed, developed and tested at a water depth of 451 meters as a part of stagewise development of mining system for exploitation of nodules from seabed.

(b) The amount spent on various activities (Survey and Exploration, Environment Impact Assessment Study, Technology Development-Extractive Metallurgy and Technology Development- Mining) of the project since its inception in 1982-83, is about Rs. 262.486 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology

2881. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the commercial application of radio isotopes is a success;
- (b) if so, the profit derived from Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) is engaged in commercial application of Radiation and Radioisotope Technology in the field of health care, agriculture, industry and research. Activities of BRIT are based on research reactors and other facilities of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and have led to large scale societal benefits and is clearly a success story. Presently, cash based government accounting system is in operation. BRIT is cash surplus in its operations.

Private practice scheme in Tata Memorial Centre

2882. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any private practice scheme has been implemented in Tata Memorial Centre;
- (b) if so, whether Government has given prior sanction to this scheme; and
- (c) how much money has been given to doctors under this scheme in the last year?