

tutoiy control on-- the price_s of alu-
minium utensils, the increase in the
•prices of primary aluminium is re-
ported to have affected the prices
pf utensils to a lesser extent.

**Finalisation of West Bengal plan for
the Year 1984-85**

540. SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-
RA: Will the Minister of PLAN-
NING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual plan for
West -Bengal for the year 1984-85
s been, finalised; and

(b). *H* not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING
(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The West'
Bengal Annual Plan for 1984-8.5 has
ot been finalised so far.

(b) lbe Government of West Ben-
gal have not been able to satisfy the
'Planning Commission about the
liability of resources 'of an order
anywhere near the Plan size .they
e asked for.

**Sea-Bed Mining in the Central Indian
Basin in the Indian Ocean**

541. SHRIMATI AMARJIT

KAUR:

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
made any , survey of the Central
Indian Basin in the Indian Ocean for
the exploration of the nodule deposits
under the sea-bed;

(b) whether any investment has
been' made for the development and
testing of systems for mining, and
processing;

(c) whether Government have
chalked out a programme for ex-
ploration and development work of
sea-bed mining in the Central Indian'
Basin in the Indian Ocean; and

(d) if the answer to parts (a), (b)

and (c) above be in the affirmative,
what is the prospect of nodule de-
posits in the Central Basin of Indian
Ocean and how much Government have
invested in carrying out survey,
in exploration, • processing, buying of
ship_s and technical know-how for the
purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC
ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS
AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a)
to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The . National Institute . ot
Oceanography, Goa, on behalf of the
Department of Ocean Development,
has carried out extensive surveys in .
the Central Indian Ocean covering an
area of more than 3 million square
kilometres. For this purpose, the
Indian built research vessel 'Gavesh-
ani', two ships chartered from inter-
national market and the • recently
acquired oceanographic research ves-
sel 'Sagar Kanya' have bee_n used.
On the basis of these surveys the
Government of India have filed an
application with the United Nations
With details of two plots of approxi-
mately 150,000 sq. kilometres each.
Of these, as per rules, the Preparatory
Commission of the International Sea-
bed Authority wiH allot one pioneer
site to India. The .nodule deposits in
the identified sites are of good quality,
with average nodule abundance of ap- .
proximately 5 kilograms per square
metre, containing about 2.5 per cent
of nickel, copper and cobalt, which
compare very favourably with the
prescribed international standards.

For different aspects of the pro-
gramme *i.e.* survey^ exploration, pro-
cessing, procurement of ships and the
development of technical know-how,
the Department of Ocean Develop-
ment has made a total investment as
under: