

(c) what are the results of such surveys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has plan for surveying sea bed resources of our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and thereafter full scale exploitation of these as soon as feasible. Preliminary geophysical surveys of the Indian Geological Continental Shelf by ONGC for hydrocarbons are already under way and are expected to be completed by 1981. Surveys will be further extended to deeper waters. Limited geological surveys are also under way by GSI and NIO (Goa). Survey for living resources of the EEZ upto about 50 fathoms depth has also been carried out by ICAR and Department of Agriculture

A broad spectrum of oceanographic research facilities is being set up under the aegis of Ocean Science & Technology Agency (OSTA), namely; Oceanographic Research Vessel (ORV) for R&D on non-living resources; Fishery and Oceanographic Research Vessel (FORV); Geotechnical Ship for coring and diving studies; and Research Motor Launches for research/surveys in coastal and inshore areas. With the acquisition of these facilities, rapid acceleration in the surveys, identification and consequent exploitation of resources is planned.

(c) As a result of previous surveys, oil and natural gas is already being produced from Bombay High Offshore region and is to be increased from present rate of 5 million tons per annum to 12 million tons per annum during the plan period 1980—85. The surveys conducted so far reveal that oil and natural gas is likely to be available off the Ratnagiri and Goda-vari Coasts and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Detailed exploration is in progress. In respect of the fishery resources, there is potential to increase the production in the near shore areas

and deep sea fisheries of our Exclusive Economic Zone. Marine fisheries already account for approximately 1.5 million tons per annum.

In respect of mineral resources, preliminary surveys indicate the possibilities of a number of placer deposits of economic value in the Indian Economic Zone; these have to be confirmed by more intensive surveys which are planned.

Mineral deposits such as the beach sands (containing thorium, Titanium, zirconium and rare earths) have been found in large quantities in the near offshore areas through surveys conducted by NIO, GSI and Department of Atomic Energy.

1437. [Transferred to the 12th August, 1980].

Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

1438. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the return of those laboratories to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research which were detached from it and transferred to their respective administrative Ministries; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

National committee on Science and Technology

1439. SHRI G. K. MOOPANAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state-

(a)¹ whether a new National Committee on Science and Technology has been constituted;

(b) when the last meeting of the new or existing NCST was held; and

(c) whether NCST has been asked to formulate a new science and technology policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The National Committee on Science and Technology (NCST) was last reconstituted on 14.7.1977 for a period of three years, and its term expired on 13th July, 1980.

(b) The last meeting of the outgoing NCST was held on 19-12-1979.

(c) The terms of reference of the outgoing NCST *inter alia* include "Formulation and implementation of Government's policy on science and technology with a view to securing for the people of the country the benefits that can accrue from the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge and research".

Guidelines issued by the Department of Science and Technology regarding research projects

1-140. SHRI SUDHAKAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) when the National Screening Committee of the Department of Science and Technology formulated guidelines/procedure/formalities for processing research projects for assistance from PL 480 Rupee special funds for research;

(b) when these guidelines were circulated to the universities; and

(c) whether it is a fact that these guidelines were supplied by the officials of DST and UGC to

favour certain individuals before these were actually circulated to the universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Project proposals for financial assistance out of US held PL-480 rupee funds are received and processed by different scientific departments of the Government. After clearance by the concerned departments the project proposals are considered by the National Screening Committee in the Department of Science and Technology before these are forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs for according financial approval and transmitting to the US side. This programme has been in existence for many years, now and the concerned departments have been following procedures and guidelines as prescribed by them from time to time. The universities have been aware of the existence of the scheme for financial assistance out of US held rupee funds for research projects since its inception; and the UGC and the Ministry of Education have been receiving project proposals from universities and technical institutions under their control for many years. The National Screening Committee, which consists of senior representatives of the concerned departments and organisations, including UGC, have looked into the procedures and guidelines for proper coordination, and suggested improvements to the guidelines and proforma for submission of project proposals; these were finalised in March 1980. There has been no formal directive to circulate the new guidelines!proforma. In cases where project proposals are now received in the old format, the investigators are advised to re-cast them in the updated proforma and follow the improved guidelines and submit them.

(c) No, Sir.