

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether such sectors have been identified, so far, where adverse effects of such cartelization is being faced by consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Sir, the data on price rise is not maintained in the Competition Commission of India (CCI). However, CCI is mandated to look into cartelization by enterprises, which is an anti-competitive activity having appreciable adverse effect, on competition, which could adversely affect prices.

(b) and (c) Parties to such cartelization are dealt with severely by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) as per the provisions of Competition Act, 2002 and a case is made out thereunder.

(d) CCI keeps gathering information on such issues from various sources and in case where *prima facie case* is made out the Commission considers taking up such cases of alleged cartelization for further investigation. Some such sectors recently have been taken up by Commission in respect to alleged cartelization relate to real estate, pharmaceuticals, civil aviation, telecom, tyre manufacturing, cement, milk distribution, onion & asbestos.

#### **Observer status in Arctic Council**

2372. SHRI N. K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has put in a request for membership or observer status to the Arctic Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response received, so far, in this regard;

(d) whether the Arctic region is rich in minerals and natural resources;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether India recognizes the sovereign rights of Arctic Council members over the entire Arctic region; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Although, Arctic region currently produces 10% of the world's oil, the 'United States Geological Survey' estimates that 22-30% of the world's oil and natural gas could be located beneath the Arctic. The estimated value of Arctic minerals stands at \$1.5-2 trillion. In addition, 25 mines were already operating in Arctic Russia by 2006. Most of the mined mineral areas include nickel-copper mines; but tin, uranium and phosphate were also being extracted. There are also abundant placer deposits on the continental shelves, of which gold and tin are economically most important. Placer diamonds, amber and fossil ivory are also present. Of the bedrock deposits, a few tens of millions of tonnes of lead-zinc carbonate deposits have been located on the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago. Manganese is mainly associated with carbonate ores in Permian deposits in Novaya Zemlya, which are estimated to contain three billion tonnes of ore to a depth of 500m.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The 1992 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides Arctic Council nations with the legal rights to define and substantiate the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, wherein they can explore and exploit the resources.

India is signatory of the UNCLOS which enshrines a regime of protocols providing coastal nations exclusive economic rights to resources lying on the sea floor and below in the designated Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

#### **Equipments used in sea**

2373. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) what sort of equipments are used in the sea to get the information above the sea, etc;