

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Jurisdiction of Sea Bed

3637. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI SURENDRANATH
DWIVEDY :
SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that divergent views have been expressed by the officials of the Ministry and other officials of Government on the jurisdiction of sea bed in public;

(b) if so, what is the view of Government ; and

(c) what steps have been taken to justify these views ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) India had tabled at the last session of the General Assembly of the U. N. a draft Declaration embodying certain fundamental principles to be observed by all States in the exploitation and use of the sea bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction. Those principles are (i) that this environment should be used for the benefit of and in the interests of mankind and should be regarded as the common heritage of mankind ; (ii) that it should not be subject to national appropriation and should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes ; (iii) that the activities of States in this environment should be in accordance with international law and the U.N. Charter, and (iv) that the U. N. should provide direction and purpose to international activities in this environment.

(c) The General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2467-A, which established a Committee of 42 States, including India, for the purpose of elaborating the legal principles and norms to promote international cooperation in the use of this environment for the benefit of mankind. This Committee will consider *inter alia* the Indian draft Declaration.

Food Preservation

3638. SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM :
SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new techniques have been formulated by the Bhabha Research Centre for food preservation ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to utilize the new technique ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b). Extensive studies in various methods of food preservation, using Cobalt-60 sources are in progress at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay. Encouraging results have been obtained in (i) insect disinfestation of stored grains ; (ii) sprout inhibition in potatoes and onions ; (iii) delayed ripening of fruits e.g. mango and banana ; and (iv) extension of shelf life of sea foods, particularly Bombay duck, shrimp and pomfret. The feasibility of the commercial application of these methods is being investigated.

Hearing Aids

3639. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that hearing aids are now selling in the market at a cost of Rs. 400 while, if produced in the country, it will cost much less ;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the desirability of manufacturing them within the country in one of the public sector projects or issuing licences for its manufacture in the private sector ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). 12 small scale units are engaged in the manufacture of hearing aids. Indigenously manufactured hearing aids are being sold at prices ranging from Rs. 100 to Rs. 400 - each.

Government are not planning to set up production of this item in a public sector undertaking.