

- Four technical reports were published and an Indian National Antarctic Database was created.
- Initial assessment was made on the distribution and abundance of krill, cephalopods and Antarctic fish in the FAO fishing area No. 58, in the Indian Ocean sector of the Southern Oceans with relation to prevailing physico-chemical and biological parameters in the water column.
- Assessment of commercial exploitation of krill through development of post-harvest technology and marketable value added products, was undertaken.

**Antarctic Study Centre (ASC)**

- The Construction of Phase I of the ASC at Goa, comprising logistic, administrative, service and residential blocks was completed and the ASC started functioning from its new premises.
- The 17th expedition was launched from the Centre in December 1997.
- Basic computing facilities and library were established at ASC.

(b) The Year-wise total expenditure on the Antarctic Expedition and the related research projects, is as follows:

Rupees in crore	
Financial Year	Expenditure
1995-96	19.51
1996-97	20.85
1997-98	21.51

**Ban on Lottery**

2040. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to impose ban on lottery;

(b) if so, the alternate arrangements proposed to be initiated to make good the loss in revenue and protect the loss of employment opportunities in case of ban on lotteries;

(c) whether any violation of directions of Supreme Court in conducting the lottery by State Governments brought under the notice of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government allow the State Governments including Kerala to conduct lottery which are implementing the lottery as per rules; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (f) A proposal to impose a comprehensive ban on the lottery trade in the country is under consideration. The proposal covers the entire country including Kerala. Issues like loss of revenue and loss of employment opportunities will be duly considered while taking a final view in the matter.

It may be mentioned that the overwhelming view in the Department related Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs, which considered the Lotteries (Regulation) Bill, 1998, was for across the board ban on the kinds of lotteries. The purpose of the said Bill was, *inter alia*, to ban single digit lotteries. Subsequently, there was also a near unanimous demand in the House that the legal curbs should not be confined to single digit lotteries only, but should extend to all kinds of lotteries. Similarly, in the Conference of Chief Ministers held in November '98, an overwhelming majority of the Chief Ministers favoured a comprehensive ban on all kinds of lotteries.

No specific instance of violation of directions of the Supreme Court in conducting lotteries by the State Governments has come to notice. However, the directions of the Supreme Court do not prohibit imposing a ban on the lottery trade.

**Scholarship to Young Artists**

2041. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: