

further action for *ipso facto* entering into such an agreement does not arise.

Illegal Immigrants 13

1959. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign citizens who entered India illegally without any passport and apprehended during the last ten month; and

(b) the names of the courts where the cases against such persons have been filed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Powers of the Central Government under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to identify, detect and deport foreign nationals residing illegally in various parts of the country have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and no data in this regard is Centrally maintained. The Government is, however, aware of the problem of foreign nationals who enter India surreptitiously from neighboring countries and are residing illegally in various parts of the country. Instructions have been issued/reiterated to the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to intensify efforts to identify and deport foreign nationals staying in the country illegally.

Under Water Cultural Heritages

1960. SHRI MADHAV RAQ PATIL;
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL.

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the unique distinction of having the richest underwater cultural heritage;

(b) if so, the details of marine archaeological activities undertaken during the last three years and the findings thereof;

(c) whether these underwater research activities had slowed down during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per studies and research done, India has a rich underwater cultural heritage. However, it is not conclusively established that the underwater cultural heritage of India is the richest in the world.

(b) As per information readily available the major marine archaeological activities undertaken during the last three years include.

- (i) Marine Archaeological exploration at Poompuhar on the Tamil Nadu Coast.
- (ii) Marine Archaeological explorations off Dwarka, Bet Dwarka and Somnath.
- (iii) Marine Archaeological exploration and excavation of ship wrecks on the West Coast of India.

The findings reported in respect of the above explorations are:

Poompuhar Project:

There are several reports in the ancient literature about the existence of the port city of Poomphar in the beginning of the Christian era.

Various artefacts were retrieved from the waters like dressed stone blocks, potsherds of early historical period (300 B.C. to 300 A.D.) Geophysical explorations carried out revealed a submerged palaeochannel of the river Kaveri in the north of Poompuhar; the width of the channel varies from 300 m to 500 m and it is buried 20 m below the sea bottom.

A significant achievement of Poompuhar underwater exploration is the discovery of a large shipwreck which carried a huge quantity of lead ingots dated 1791 and 1792 A.D. and inscribed W Blackett which could be the name of the company manufacturing or dealing in lead ingots.

Dwarka Explorations:

At Dwarka a total of approx. 9,80,000 Sq. Meters coastal areas was explored between the water depth of 3 to 12 M since 1983. A number of submerged stone