Programmes for Ocean Development

470. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes chalked out in the field of ocean development for the current financial year;

(b) the amount earmarked for implementing each programme; and

(c) the steps taken for implementing these programmes so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (c). The details of the programmes chalked out in the field of Ocean Development together with the amounts earmarked for each of them during the year 1990-91 and the steps taken to implement them are indicated below:—

1. *Ocean Information System-Primary Data Base (Rs. 0.10 crore)*

A satellite based ocean information system has been established, to provide management support to navigation, coastal zone management and design strategies for exploration and exploitation of marine living and non-living resources, in the country.

2. *Polymetallic Nodules Programme (Rs. 10.00 crores)*

Following the registration as a pioneer investor and allotment of marine site in the Central Indian Ocean, a programme has been generated to design and develop a test sea bed mining system, at the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute Durgapur.

Research & Development for the extraction of copper, nickel, cobalt and Manganese from deep sea bed nodules and for establishing a pilot plant capable of processing 250 kg. of nodules per day has been taken up for implementation.

3. *Survey & Exploration of Living and Non-Living Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (Rs. 6.5 crores)*

Survey and exploration of living and non-living resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone, study of various oceanographic parameters, and of biomass distribution in different parts of the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Central Indian Ocean are carried out through carefully designed cruises of research vessels Sagar Kanya and Sagar Sampada.

4. *Antarctica Research Programmes (Rs. 13.2 crores)*

The Scientific Research Programmes in Antarctica have been designed to carry out sophisticated scientific experiments and investigations in the fields of geosciences, biology meteorology, upper atmosphere etc. These are designed to provide clues to the structure of the Antarctic landmass, its ice sheets and ecosystems and in particular to the processess of global change as well as insights for making environmental impact assessment of various ongoing and proposed activities. The Tenth Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica planned this year, sailed from Goa on 27.11.1990 and landed on Antarctica on 20.12.1990.

5. *Research and training in modelling oceanic Circulation and Air-Sea processes (Rs. 0.065 crore)*

A project was especially generated to develop high level expertise in modelling and experiment design to study oceanic circulation and Air-Sea interface processess. This is being implemented through the establishment of a Cell in the Centre for At-

mospheric Sciences at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

6. *Monitoring and modelling of Pollution in the sea (Rs. 0.50 crore)*

Systematic monitoring of pollution regimes along the entire coast of India and Islands has been established, to keep a surveillance on the health of our coastal seas and to develop an understanding of the dynamics of the ecosystem on which our near-shore living resources depend.

7. *Sea level variations(Rs. 0.25 crore)*

A programme for establishing a net work of 9 state-of-the art tide-gauge stations along our coast and Islands is now underway towards documenting sea level variations, if any, with high precision.

8. *Acquaculture: Action Plan for alleviating poverty (Rs. 0.60 crore)*

A projectized Action Plan on aquaculture, aimed at developing special assets of the coastal wetlands, is being implemented towards improving the quality of life in rural areas. A project on setting up of R & D cum Demonstration farm on culture of prawn in A & N Islands is being undertaken in this direction.

9. *An integrated Wave Energy generator-breakwater system to produce 2 MW of power (Rs. 1.00 crore)*

Utilizing the experience gained during the construction of a 150 KW wave generating unit to be installed shortly at Vizhijnjam (Trivandrum) the design of an integrated wave generating breakwater system consisting of a battery of 20 caissons (260m long) and capable of producing peak power of 2 MW has been completed for the proposed fishing harbour project at Thangessery, Kerala and sent to the Kerala Government for their consideration.

Conference on Quality of Worklife and productivity

471. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Conference on Quality of Worklife and Productivity was inaugurated on 27 November, 1990;

(b) if so, the observations made in the conference; and

(c) the details of action taken for implementation of its observations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Conference deliberated on a wide number of issues such as creation of a competitive environment, adoption of a holistic strategy, evolving appropriate schemes for workers, promotion of awareness of management etc. which impinge on the quality of worklife and productivity. The Seminar was attended by representatives of industry. In addition, the proceedings of such conferences are generally brought out in the form of publications by NPC for the use of benefit of concerned organisations/industries.

Pricing of Tyres

472. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether acting as a cartel, tyre manufacturing companies have thrust a whopping price hike on consumers in anticipation of an increase in input costs;

(b) whether such a pricing policy is in