

Use of Submarine for capturing Smugglers Boat:

*546. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a submarine was used for capturing a smugglers' boat operating between West coast of India and Dubai and other ports in the Persian Gulf;

(b) the nature of the smugglers' boat captured and the goods seized therein;

(c) whether the owners and the passengers in the boat could be identified;

(d) whether this smugglers' boat was used for transferring assets of some Indians to Swiss Bank via Persian Gulf; and

(e) if so, the facts thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) to (e). In Submarine VAGIR, while on exercise off Bombay, apprehended a smugglers' boat on 19-11-74, named MFV NIGAH-E-KARAM registered at DUBAI. The vessel was found to carry textiles and electronic calculating machines valued approximately Rs. 14 lakhs. The vessel was handed over to the customs authorities. The crew and the vessel have been placed under arrest and further investigations by the customs authorities are proceeding.

Exploitation of Phosphate Deposits in Madhya Pradesh

*547. **SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:**

SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently phosphate and other minerals have been found in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken to carry out large-scale exploitation of these minerals;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up a fertilizer factory in the State using some of these minerals as raw materials; and

(d) other steps proposed to use the minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) (a) Significant discoveries of minerals in recent years in Madhya Pradesh have been of rock phosphate in Jhabua District and of copper ore in Malanjkhand, District Balaghat.

(b) Exploratory drilling has been completed in Malanjkhand and based on the results obtained, M/s, Hindustan Copper Limited signed an agreement with a Soviet agency in October, 1973 for the preparation of a detailed project report for setting up of a Mining and Concentration Complex at Malanjkhand. The detailed project report for mining is expected to be received by the end of this year and that for the concentrator and auxiliary facilities by September, 1975.

The investigations for rock phosphate in Jhabua District are being expedited in order to get an accurate picture of the quantity and grade of the reserves.

(c) There is no proposal as yet to set up a fertilizer factory in the State, using Jhabua rock phosphate as raw material.

(d) The rock phosphate, after beneficiation to the extent necessary, will have a ready market but any scheme for the exploration of these deposits can be drawn up only after the present investigations for proving the reserves are completed and necessary tests for ascertaining the beneficiation characteristics carried out.