

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 407
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, July 21, 2016**

APPOINTMENTS IN ICMAM AND NIOT

407 DR. V. MAITREYAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has appointed adequately qualified scientists and research officers in the Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the vacancy position as on date in both ICMAM and NIOT;**
- (c) whether Government has taken any new research projects in both these centres and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilized in the last five years, year-wise; and**
- (e) whether Government has taken any decision on the appointment of directors and research officers in both ICMAM and NIOT?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

- (a) Yes Sir.**
- (b) Vacancy position in respect of ICMAM is Scientist D (3 posts) and of NIOT is Scientist C (1 post) respectively.**
- (c) and (d) Both ICMAM and NIOT have regular ongoing activities in addition to several new research projects that have been undertaken. The details of these new research projects and funds allocated, disbursed and utilized in the last five years, year-wise is listed in the Annexure-1.**
- (e) NIOT has a sanctioned post of Director and action to fill up the post is under process. The meeting of the Search-cum-Selection Committee is scheduled for 2nd August 2016. Pending appointment of regular incumbent, officiating charge has been entrusted with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). ICMAM being a small organization, the senior most scientist has been designated as Head of the organization and also delegated the power to carry out research activities.**

The details of new research projects taken up and funds allocated, disbursed and utilized in the last five years:

A: ICMAM

During XII Plan the new research focus is mainly on two aspects viz., a) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Coastal processes, Erosion, Ecosystem management and Training) and b) Pollution and Environment (Water Quality Monitoring, Prediction and Ecotoxicology) aiming to understand the issues and generate the quality information needed for effective management and development of India's coastal zones. The main objectives of the "Coastal Research" scheme of XII Plan are: a) to generate products by scientific techniques that are useful to solve issues like coastal erosion which have long-term socio-economic implications, b) to facilitate sustenance of productivity of marine environment through adoption of modern approach like ecosystem based management, c) to detect periodical changes in Coastal Water quality, predict pollution levels and undertake associated activities like determination of seawater quality criteria for protection and preservation of marine environment and d) to develop capabilities in coastal states & UTs for adoption of Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management through training.

The details of funds utilized thereof in the last five years are:

(Rupees in crores)

S. No.	Financial Year	As per A.O.	Budget allocated	Funds disbursed
1	2011-12	10.94	7.75	7.37
2	2012-13	16.63	13.59	5.76
3	2013-14	36.51	19.88	9.75
4	2014-15	31.56	17.50	9.87
5	2015-16	31.18	18.35	10.87

B: NIOT

The following are the new research projects and the details of funds utilized thereof in the last five years.

Ocean Resource: An Autonomous coring system (ACS) was developed for ground truth validation of gas hydrate occurrence in Indian continental margins and tested over the sea floor of Krishna Godavari Basin.

Ocean Energy: A floating type wave energy device called the Backward Bent Ducted Buoy (BBDB) has been developed and tested successfully in the sea.

Technology Development: Various subsystems that are required for mining operations have been developed and sea trials have been performed. These are (i) Remotely operable Subsea In-situ Soil tester (ii) An Exploratory Mining System with single module of collector, crusher and hydraulic sub-systems. (iii) a Remotely Operable Vehicle (ROV) rated for 6000m water depth for survey and exploration (iv) another ROV rated for shallow water operation, operated at the Priyadarshini Lake, ice shelf in Antarctica and in coral reef in the Andaman Sea.

Mariculture Technology: Successful demonstration of Open sea cage culture in Andhra Pradesh, Andamans and Tamil Nadu.

Shore Protection Measures: On the request from Government of Puducherry to restore the beach, environmentally friendly shoreline stabilization methodology has been evolved and demonstrated resulting in a gain of 60m wide beach.

Development of Ocean Observation Systems: Technology developed under the program include (i) Autonomous Underwater Profiling Drifter (AUPD) has been successfully tested in the sea and trial production of AUPDs by Indian industry is completed (ii) Indigenized drifter buoys with INSAT communication were deployed in Indian waters (iii) Development of Drishti systems for measurements of visibility at the airports in collaboration with the National Aerospace Laboratories, CSIR, Bangalore (iv) Deployment of IndARC, India's first sub-surface moored observatory in the polar waters of Arctic.

Establishment of Ballast Water Treatment Technologies – Test Facility (BWTT-TF): The objective are to (i) establishment of Ballast Water Treatment Technologies - Test Facility (ii) testing and Validation of Ballast Water Treatment Systems

Seafront Facility: The objective is to is to create a world class Seafront Research Facility (SRF) to enable activities in development and testing of prototype systems and validation of indigenously developed marine systems in the ocean environment, at the proposed location in the Andhra Pradesh allotted total extent of 211.74 acres - Pamanji, Vagarru and Chittedu Villages, Nellore. Towards this about 155.56 acres of land has been acquired at Thupilipallam village in Vakadu Mandal near Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. A berthing facility with control room located at this center is also proposed to manage the running, operation and maintenance of the fleet of for Ocean Research Vessels.

(Rupees in crores)

S. No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	GIA received	Expenditure incurred
1	2011-12	153.16	127.07	135.92
2	2012-13	214.20	136.58	147.42
3	2013-14	260.70	177.27	167.73
4	2014-15	302.83	126.89	139.90
5	2015-16	462.70	155.36	147.59