

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NINE NEW LIGHTHOUSES IN FIFTH PLAN
RECOMMENDATIONS OF CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

New Delhi, Kartika 4, 1894
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Thirty-seven schemes for setting up new lighthouses improving the existing ones and providing modern navigational aids on the East and West coast of India, were approved for inclusion in the Fifth Five-Year Plan by the Central Advisory Committee for Lighthouses, which met here today; Shri M.G. Pimputkar, Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport, presided.

This was the first meeting of the newly constituted 16-member Committee which includes, among others, Sarvashri K.K. Shetty and S.G. Sardesai, both Members of Parliament, Cdre G.S. Kapoor, Director-General of Lighthouses and Lightships, Capt. S.L. Frazer, Chief Hydrographer, and Capt. M.S. Patel, Nautical Adviser.

The schemes include nine new lighthouses — three in the Andaman and Nicobar region, three in Andhra Pradesh, two in Gujarat and one in Mysore State.

The total cost of 37 schemes would be of the order of Rs.896 lakhs. Of this, over one-fourth has been allotted for the installation of the most upto date electronic navigational aids. Provision has also been made for acquiring a ship at a cost of Rs.60 lakhs to carry men and material to various lighthouses.

FIRST REMOTE...

FIRST REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM

For the first time, a remote monitoring system would be set up between Dwarka and Okha lighthouses in the country. If the trial succeeds, similar arrangements will be made at other selected lighthouses. That will ensure uninterrupted and satisfactory functioning of the lighthouses falling in the category of unattended stations which had been engaging the attention of the lighthouse authorities all over the world.

A novel type of tower for off-shore locations developed by an Australian firm was proposed to be set up at Gurur Shoal in the Gulf of Kutch. The tower consists of a base, a lower cylinder, a buoyancy chamber, an upper cylinder and light structure. The Committee desired that further discussions should be conducted with the Australian firm which had offered to set up the new type of 'Sarus' tower, and financial implications of the various alternatives examined before a decision was taken about the project.

The members of the Committee discussed the Engineers India Limited report on the putting up of five off-shore structures at Lushington Shoal, Ranwara Shoal, Bobby Shoal, Gurur Shoal and Perigee Rock. The Committee desired that fabrication and installation of the structures should be done indigenously with the help of foreign contractors where necessary, and the job completed in the minimum possible time.

The Central Government took over the administration of lighthouses in the country in April, 1929, according to the terms of the Indian Lighthouse Act, 1927. The main purpose of a lighthouse is to warn the ships navigating over high seas of the dangers near the shore and to help them fix their position for navigating.

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