NOTES

JOURNAL FROM SRI LANKA

Since 1988 the Geological Society of Sri Lanka has been publishing a journal and four issues of a newsletter annually. Occasionally it releases special publications devoted to felicitate senior geoscientists of the island or to commemorate various activities of the Society.

The latest issue of the Journal (Vol.4, 1992) has 14 articles, besides abstracts of the papers in the Sinhalese language, at the end. As is to be expected most of the articles pertain to features in Sri Lanka - geological, geomorphic, geochronological, geochemistry of some area and /on rocks. However, three papers one on the relationship between Sri Lanka and Antarctica, one on Holocene sea-level changes, and the one on relationship between cosmic rhythms and geological rhythms would be of particular interest to readers outside Sri Lanka as well. The printing and get up is quite good and the libraries looking for journals in Earth Sciences will do well to subscribe for this journal (G.S.S.L., Dept.of Geology, University of Paradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka).

R.V.

PALAEOSEISMICITY STUDIES IN KUTCH AREA

A Field Workshop on palaeoseismicity studies in the epicentral zone of 1819 Kutch earthquake (Allah Band) was held from 11-13 March 1993 under the Seismicity Programme of DST.

Allah Band is located within the marshy land of Rann of Kutch. The scrap has an exposed elevation of about 1.5m. It is a dissected scrap facing south and drained by numerous southerly flowing gullies. The Allah Band trends nearly east-west. The northern part has a very gentle slope of up to 2 towards north and it is also drained by consequent streams. The southern dissected scrap abuts abruptly against the salt encrusted surface of the Rann of Kutch. The scrap is made up of thirty laminated clays alternating with silt-rich layers of dark-brown colour, moist with water. These layers have salt encrustations. Geological evidence of palaoeseismicity could not be found. However, tectonic manifestation in this area is indicated by many beheaded-severed channels on the northern side of the scrap.

Based on the field data and subsequent deliberations, it was recommended that:

1. Local seismic network of 3 to 5 stations may be established around Bhuj.

2. An integrated programme may be initiated to understand the overall impact of seismicity and tectonics on the geomorphology and basin evolution of this region.

3. Palaeoseismic studies may be extended to Kaurick-Chango fault (Himachal Pradesh) and to parts of Western Ghats.

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