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**STUDIES OF HIGH BACKGROUND RADIATION AREAS
IN THE WEST COAST OF SRI LANKA.**

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Radioactivity in the environment is mainly due to naturally occurring radionuclides and cosmic radiation. Fallout due to nuclear testing and other man radionuclides also makes a significant contribution.

There are certain areas in the World which show high levels of background radiation. This is due primarily to naturally occurring primordial nuclides in the heavy minerals. Such areas are the coastal areas of Kerala State, India and Brazil. ^{232}Th and ^{238}U and their decay products are mainly responsible for these elevated radiation levels. (1) Similar high background areas are reported to be present in the South-West Coast of Sri Lanka. (2)

The present study deals with another coastal stretch starting from the fluvial region of the Kelani River to Pamunugama in the West Coast. The results of the dosimetric survey along this stretch are discussed here.

It is shown here, that this coastal stretch too, shows background radiation levels several times higher than 'normal' natural background areas. The distribution of radiation levels along the coast is heterogenous.

Two hot spots have been located and the intensity of the background radiation in these spots shows seasonal variations.

References :

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