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SOME RECENT INVESTIGATIONS IN AREAS HAVING HIGH BACKGROUND RADIATION IN THE SOUTH WEST COAST OF SRI LANKA.

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In regions where high concentrations of radioactive minerals occur, the background radiation is high. The highest background levels are known in the Kerala Coast of India and in the coastal areas in Brazil. The high background radioactivity in these regions is due to ^{232}Th and ^{238}U and their daughter products, i. e. ^{208}Tl, ^{228}Ac, ^{214}Bi & ^{214}Pb. (1) (2)

The South-West Coast of Sri Lanka is another reported high background area. (3) Polkotuwa village in the South-West Coast was selected for the present study. The distribution of background radiation levels in the hinterland and radiation level fluctuations on the adjacent beach were investigated.

An iso-dose rate contour map was prepared for the Polkotuwa village at Beruwela and it has shown that several high background radiation spots are present in the hinterland. The background radiation levels in the hinterland and on the beach are comparable with the levels reported in other parts of the World. The present experiments have also shown the existence of a long-shore drift of monazite deposits along the coast.

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