

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1210
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
EXPLOITATION OF SEA RESOURCES
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (A) WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSE TO START THE FULL EXPLOITATION OF THE SEA RESOURCES LOCATED IN THE INDIAN MARITIME ZONE.
- (B) IF SO, THE DETAILS THEREOF;
- (C) WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAVE APPOINTED ANY WORKING GROUP IN THIS REGARD;
- (D) IF SO, THE DETAILS THEREOF;
- (E) WHETHER ANY SURVEY IN THIS REGARD HAS BEEN CONDUCTED;
- (F) IF SO, THE DETAILS AND OUTCOME OF THE SURVEY?

Answer

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR MANOHAR JOSHI)

(A)&(B) VARIOUS MINERALS AND HYDROCARBON RESOURCES ARE KNOWN TO OCCUR IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ) IN THE WATERS AROUND INDIA. HYDROCARBON RESOURCES ARE BEING EXPLOITED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS. THERE IS NO PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE OFFSHORE AREAS.

(A) NO WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF MINERALS AND HYDROCARBON RESOURCES IN THE OFFSHORE AREAS IN THE EEZ.

(B) DOES NOT ARISE.

(E)&(F) YES, SINCE THE SURVEYS TO EXPLORE AND ESTIMATE MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE INDIAN EEZ ARE AN ONGOING PROCESS, ESTIMATES OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND HYDROCARBON RESERVES ARE THEREFORE REGULARLY UPDATED.

MINERAL RESOURCES

(1) GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (MARINE WING) HAS UNDERTAKEN SEA BED SURVEY AND INVESTIGATION RELATING TO EARTH SCIENCES, WITHIN THE EEZ OF INDIA, TO DELINEATE POTENTIAL AREAS FOR MARINE MINERAL RESOURCES. SEABED SURVEYS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN ARABIAN SEA, BAY OF BENGAL AND ANDAMAN SEA, WITHIN EEZ INCLUDING TERRITORIAL WATERS. THEY HAVE DELINEATED HEAVY MINERAL SANDS COMPRISING LIMONITE, RUTILE, ZIRCON, SILLIMANITE, MONAZITE AND GARNET OFF ORISSA, ANDHRA, KERALA AND KARNATAKA COASTS, HIGH GRADE LIME-MUD DEPOSIT IN WATER DEPTHS OF 180 TO 1200 M OFF GUJARAT COAST AND IN VARIOUS DEPTHS OF 100 TO 200 M OFF GUJARAT COASTS; 2-5 CM THICK LAYER OF MICRO-MANGANESE NODULES IN VARIOUS DEPTHS OF 2800 TO 4300 M IN LAKSHADWEEP SEA; OOLITES AND CALCAREOUS SAND IN WATER DEPTH OF 50 TO 100 M OFF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT COASTS; CALCAREOUS SEDIMENTS IN WATER DEPTH OF 1000 M, WESTERN ANDAMAN NICOBAR GROUP OF ISLANDS; FERRUGINOUS MANGANESE ENCRUSTATIONS WITH HIGH VALUES OF IRON, COBALT AND LEAD HAS BEEN RECORDED FROM LAKSHADWEEP SEA AT A WATER DEPTH OF 1562 M.

HYDROCARBON

(2) VARIOUS MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND NEW HYDROCARBON RESERVE BY ENCOURAGING EXPLORATION TO DEEP WATERS AND FRONTIER AREAS, INCREASING PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO FORMULATED NEW EXPLORATION LICENSING POLICY (NELP) TO EXPLORE AND ENHANCE THE PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS IN THE COUNTRY INCLUDING OFFSHORE AREAS. GOVERNMENT HAS SIGNED 54 PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACTS FOR THE OFFSHORE AREAS IN THREE ROUNDS OF NELP. RESERVES OF HYDROCARBONS ARE REGULARLY UPDATED THROUGH GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS.