

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:486
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006
FISSILE MINERALS EXTRACTION
Bellarmin Shri A.V.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sea shore of Kanyakumari District is having a vast deposit of various fissile minerals like `monozite`;
- (b) if so, whether the private mining companies have been issued mining licences to exploit the strategic minerals from beach sand;
- (c) if so, whether the mining activities by the private companies are against the National security; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) No sir. However, the Department has issued licences for mining Ilmenite and Rutile (which are used for industrial purposes) to private companies.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Not Applicable.