

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3618
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the agencies responsible for supervising the Government programmes of Ocean Development.
- (b) The details of their role during the last three years;
- (c) Whether any headway has been made under the sea mining;
- (d) If so, the amount expended and efforts made for exploration of mineral resources in 200 mile EEZ;
- (e) Whether any commercial activities have taken place there during the said period; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) and (b) The agencies responsible for the Government programmes in Ocean Development and their role during the last three years are given below :-

Ministry of Agriculture

- + Survey of fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone.
- + Training of fishery operatives.
- + Development of technologies for catching, processing and product development of marine fish.
- + Extension of assistance to maritime states for development of coastal infrastructure.

Ministry of Shipping.

- + Development of major ports.
- + Implementation of Merchant Shipping Act.
- + Development and expansion of Indian Shipping Industry

Ministry of Mines

- + Survey of seabed within the Exclusive Economic Zone for non-living resources
- + Legislation for regulation of mines and development of minerals underlying the ocean within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

- + Exploration and exploitation of petroleum resources including natural gas.
- + Production, supply distribution, marketing of petroleum and natural gas.
- + Development of Oil Refineries.
- + Implementation of various Acts like, The Oil Fields Regulation and Development Act, The Petroleum Pipelines Act, The Oil Industry Development Act, etc.

Department of Scientific & Industrial Research

- + Research and investigation relating to physical, chemical, biological, biophysical, geophysical and other ocean processes in the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean.
- + Collaboration with reputed international laboratories for furthering the research in oceanography.

Department of Ocean Development

- + Development of Technologies for harnessing ocean resources.
- + Promotion of research in Polar sciences including launching expeditions to Antarctica.
- + Scientific surveys for living and non-living resources.
- + Development of Pilot Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management plans.
- + Development of ocean observation and information services.
- + Coordination / cooperation in the international programmes viz. Antarctic Treaty System, Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, Regional Seas Programme

(c to f) Under the Technology Development (Mining) activity of the Polymetallic Nodules Programme, a programme of design, development and testing of a shallow bed sand mining system was undertaken and the system successfully tested for a water depth of 400 metres off the Tuticorin coast. An amount of Rs.15.05 crores has been spent on this shallow bed mining system during the last three years. However, no deposits of polymetallic nodules exist within the 200 nautical mile EEZ. The mining site allocated by the International Seabed Authority to India is in the Central Indian Ocean Basin outside the EEZ of India. No commercial activity for nodule mining has been undertaken during the last three years.