

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:985
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR OCEAN MINING
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government provide funds for ocean mining in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the activities taken therewith;
- (c) Whether such activities have not proved to be productive; and
- (d) If so, the steps proposed to be taken to review all such expenses?

Answer

MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) No Sir, Funds are not provided for ocean mining. No Commercial & economic viability of mining of nodules from deep Seabed has yet been established anywhere in the world. The efforts so far made by department are towards establishing the technical capabilities.

As a first step towards establishment of technology development (Component) of Polymetallic Nodule Programme, development of mining system to exploit nodules from a depth of 6000 m has been envisaged in phases by the Department of Ocean Development. In the first phase, the Department provided funds to National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai an autonomous institute under the Department, towards development of shallow bed mining system. NIOT & Institute for Konstruktion (IKS) University of Siegen, Germany jointly developed the system by refurbishing existing crawler available with IKS. The system was tested on the seabed at a depth of 410 m during March, 2000. Subsequently the system was demonstrated for its maneuverability on the seabed at a shallow depth. The review of the technology developed for shallow bed mining system has been undertaken by an expert committee.