

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:418
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2001
SURVEY ON SEA BED RESOURCES
PALANIYAPPA GOUNDER KUMARASAMY

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the resources available in the sea-bed within the territorial waters and continental shelf;
- (b) if so, whether any project has been worked out to exploit these resources; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes Sir. The Government through Geological Survey of India under the Ministry of Mines undertakes surveys to ascertain the resources available in the territorial waters and continental shelf for non living resources and investigation related to the earth science. As per the information provided by GSI, during the surveys, GSI have already delineated economic heavy mineral sands comprising ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite, monazite and garnet off Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka coasts; high grade lime-mud deposit in water depths of 180 to 1200 m off Gujrat coast; 2-5 cm thick layer of micro-manganese nodules in water depths of 2800 to 4300m in Lakshadweep sea; Oolites and calcareous sands found in water depths of 50 to 200m off Maharashtra and Gujrat coasts; high grade lime mud deposits in water depths of 100 to 200 m off Andhra coast; phosphatised sediments (0.5 to 19.1% P₂O₅) in water depths of 100 to 200 m southeast off Chennai; calcareous sediments in water depths of 1000m, west of Andaman-Nicobar Group of islands; high grade calcareous sands in shallow offshore and lagoons of Lakshadweep.

(b) & (c) There are no projects so far for the exploitation of these mineral resources.