

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3238
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
DEPOSIT OF MINERALS IN SEA BEACHES
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some heavy minerals have been located in some sea beaches in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof mineral-wise and sea beaches-wise ;
- (c) the approximate deposits of different heavy minerals expected in those sea beaches ;
- (d) whether the Government have any proposal to explore those heavy minerals contained in those sea beaches; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in that regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) : Yes Sir. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate office of Department of Mines have identified abundant resources of heavy minerals such as Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Monazite (prescribed substances under Atomic Energy Act, 1962), Garnet and Sillimanite (other minerals), along the coastal tracts and offshore areas of the country.

(b) & (c) : As per AMD the mineral-wise resources of the coastal zones are as follows :-

(in million tonnes)

Ilmenite Rutile Zircon Monazite Garnet Sillimanite

Kerala	95.51	6.61	6.45	1.35	1.19	39.07
Tamil Nadu	97.91	4.82	8.35	1.73	24.38	21.09
Andhra Pradesh	100.10	4.42	4.43	2.29	48.99	47.02
Orissa	45.05	1.88	1.44	1.18	32.61	21.23
Others	9.85	0.20	0.47	1.44	0.08	1.75

TOTAL 348.22 17.93 21.14 7.99 107.09 130.16

(d) & (e) : The commercial exploitation of prescribed substances is being carried out by M/S Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a public sector Unit, under DAE and M/S Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited, a Public Sector Unit under Government of Kerala. The exploitation of other minerals is being carried out by a number of private entrepreneurs. In October, 1998, considering the vast resources of heavy mineral deposits, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has issued a policy resolution on exploitation of beach sand minerals and their down stream utilization, paving the way for participation by both Indian and foreign companies.