

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2612  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2005  
DEEP SEA MINING  
Chaure Shri Babu Hari

**Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any new policy for exploiting mineral resources from the deep sea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to increase the area into Deep Sea Mining ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing Polymetallic Nodules Programme for exploration and development of relevant technologies in the Pioneer area allotted to India in Central Indian Ocean Basin for potential exploitation of polymetallic nodules from deep sea. As a part of development of technologies for deep sea mining under this programme, a crawler based shallow bed sand mining system has been developed and demonstrated for sand mining at a water depth of 410 meters off Tuticorin coast. Government has also set up a semi-continuous pilot plant with a capacity of processing 500 kg polymetallic nodules per day for extracting metals viz., copper, nickel and cobalt at Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur.

(c)The Government has undertaken the survey for Delineation of Outer Limits of Continental Shelf extending beyond the existing Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The documentations are required to be submitted before the United Nation for delineation of continental shelf by May 2009 .