

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:410  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010  
MARINE WEALTH  
Raghavan Shri M. K.

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has identified areas for coordinating and promoting ocean development activities in the country including mapping of resources, which can be commercially exploited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also undertaken any survey along the Indian Coasts including the coastal belt of Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF THE EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a-b) The Government has taken up the work on survey and mapping of various marine resources. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is implementing a programme on Studies on Gas Hydrates Exploration and Technology Development. This includes mapping of possible locations of gas hydrates. The mineral exploration in the offshore areas of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India is carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) under the Ministry of Mines. The exploratory surveys and mapping of marine fishery resources in offshore waters of EEZ of India are carried out by the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), an attached office under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). Further, the marine biota is sampled by Ministry of Earth Sciences towards development of potential drugs from sea. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is also carrying out work on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination Technology (LTTD) for generating freshwater from sea including the survey and mapping of suitable sites for setting up the desalination plants.

(c-d) Yes, Madam. The major outcomes in the course of survey along the Indian Coasts including coastal belt of Kerala are furnished at Annexure-I: