

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:680

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

MINERALS IN OCEAN

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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) The details of minerals underlying the ocean floor within the territorial waters/continental shelf/other maritime zones of the country, mineral-wise;
- (b) Whether the Government has developed its own infrastructure to extract the minerals; and
- (c) if so, the funds allocated/spent/unspent for the exploration and development activities during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE)

(a) and (b): Geological Survey of India (GSI) has delineated economic mineral(non-fuel) bearing area for heavy mineral sands, Oolites and calcareous sands, lime mud occurrences, phosphatic sediment, construction grade sand, micro-manganese nodules and ferromanganese encrustations in East Coast (Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and West Coast (Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Lakshadweep).

(c): Funds allocated for the exploration and development activities by the Geological Survey of India during each of the last three years and the current year are given below :-

Year Exploration activities Development programme

2006-07 Rs.1,30,27,179 Rs.14,85,00,000

2007-08 Rs.2,08,78,486 Rs. 9,92,00,000

2008-09 Rs.1,72,24,825 Rs.15,00,00,000

2009-10 Rs.2,97,20,532 Rs.13,00,00,000