

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4602
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any trial of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) has been conducted to explore deep sea;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to extract minerals from deep sea after the said successful trial; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof.

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Successful trial of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) has been conducted to demonstrate its capacity to operate in deep sea in phases. All the sub-systems of the vehicle were successfully tested upto a maximum depth of 5289 m.

(c & d) ROV is not a tool for extraction of minerals from ocean bed. The ROV is a general purpose technological tool for underwater research work. The extraction of minerals from deep sea bed is not viable presently. However, a pilot deep sea mining system for mining the polymetallic nodules containing Copper, Nickel, Cobalt and Manganese, lying on seabed in water depth of 4000m to 6000m, is planned to be developed by the year 2015.