

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2556  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011  
EXPLORATION IN INDIAN SEA BY CHINA  
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether China's request for exploration and mining in South-Western Indian Ridge has since been approved by International Seabed Authority (ISA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the details of its likely impact on India's security system?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (c) Government is aware that the International Seabed Authority (ISA) has approved the plan of work for exploration of polymetallic sulphides by China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA). ISA is an institution established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) mandated for governance of areas lying beyond national maritime jurisdictions of States. The Chinese plan of work for exploration in the southwest Indian Ocean Ridge is in an area beyond the national jurisdiction of any State. It will be carried out under the regulatory framework adopted by ISA for polymetallic sulphide exploration. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.