

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5148
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011
IMPLICATIONS OF CHINESE DOMINANCE IN INDIAN OCEAN
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is concerned about China's application for deep-sea mining licence in the Central Indian Ocean (cleared by the International Seabed Authority);
- (b) if so, whether this can be used as an excuse to operate Chinese warships in this area and collect sensitive hydrological and oceanographic data and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Directorate of Naval Intelligence has, in its note, warned that this could have critical implications for India and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a concurrence of views on concerns in this regard between Defence and External Affairs Ministries and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the military implications of this are proposed to be monitored by the Navy and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other countries with a similar access to the Central Indian Ocean bed?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) The China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) has filed its application with the International Seabed Authority (ISBA) for Deep Sea Mining Exploration License for approval of plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the South-West Indian Ocean Ridge. The application has been approved by the International Seabed Authority in July 2011.

(b) to (f): Government keeps a constant watch on all developments concerning our national security and commercial interests and takes all necessary measures to safe guard them in accordance with the prevailing security situation and strategic considerations.