

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1586  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013  
MINING OF RARE EARTH MATERIAL  
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of running mining projects undertaken by the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL);
- (b) the details of the rare earth material mined by IREL including its Chavara Mineral Division, Kollam during the last three years;
- (c) the details of projects proposed to be undertaken in future;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the activities of this division is diminishing day by day; and
- (e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the mining activities of this division?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

- (a) Sir, running mining projects of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) are located at Orissa Sand Complex (OSCOM) at Chatrapur (Odisha), at Manavalakurichi (Tamil Nadu) and at Chavara (Kerala).
- (b) No rare earth material occurring as an independent mineral has been mined by IREL during the last three years. However, the monazite rich tailings resulting from mining of Beach Sand Minerals have been stored as per the guidelines of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for extraction of thorium, uranium and rare earth material from monazite in future.
- (c) The proposed projects are: Project for capacity expansion of mining and mineral separation unit at OSCOM, and Separated high pure rare earths project at Rare Earth Division of IREL at Chavara, Kerala.
- (d) Yes Sir, due to limited availability of mineable land carrying raw beach sand, and gradual decline in heavy mineral contents in the sand, the activities at Chavara and Manavalakurichi are declining during recent years.
- (e) To expand its activities in the region, IREL has identified options for: (i) acquiring land from the land owners at Vellanathuruthu, Pandarathuruthu and Ponmana area of Chavara mines; (ii) outright purchase package and/or lease package for acquiring land at Karithura, Chavara; (iii) collecting raw sand from Neendakara Port area with the help of State Government and Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.; (iv) purchase of dredged-out sand from Neendakara harbour area; and (v) acquiring land for mining purposes from stake holders having surface right in the mining areas of Chavara and Manavalakurichi.