

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2654
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013
PERMISSION TO EXPORT MONAZITE
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per guidelines of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), no individual or company or entity is permitted to export Monazite;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that some individuals/companies are unauthorisedly exporting Monazite without any licence and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether cases of some individuals or companies who have been allowed to keep sand which contain Monazite after removing other minerals from it have come to the notice of the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Monazite is a 'Prescribed Substance' under Sec. 2(g) of Atomic Energy Act 1962 read with the Gazette Notification No.S.O.61(E) dated 20.01.2006. The Atomic Energy (working of the mines, minerals and handling of prescribed substances) Rules 1984 govern the grant of licences for mining, milling, processing and/or handling any ore, mineral, or other material from which prescribed substance can be extracted. The term 'handling' includes manufacture, possession, storage, usage, transferring by sale or otherwise, export, import, transport or disposal of the said substance. Since Monazite is a 'prescribed substance', the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India, as a policy, has restricted all activities in respect of this substance to Government entities only. Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy, is the only organisation that has been permitted till date to export monazite. The Department has not permitted any other individual or company or entity to export Monazite.

(c) No, Sir. While the DAE has not given export licences to any private entities, reports have appeared in certain sections of the press suggesting illegal exports of monazite. The DAE has initiated steps to put in place comprehensive systems to check any such exports, through appropriate pre-export regulatory checks, and radiation monitoring at Ports.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The Department has allowed the following entities to store Monazite-tailings within the plant premises where such tailings are stored in trenches in an isolated location within the plant premise with institutional control of AERB and topped with silica rich sand:

- i. M/s Trimex Sands Pvt. Ltd., Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
- ii. M/s Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited, Chavara, Kerala
- iii. Authoor Plant of M/s V.V.Minerals, Tamilnadu
- iv. M/s V.V.Minerals, Yellapetta, Andhra Pradesh
- v. M/s Miracle Sands and Metals, Tamilnadu

(f) These storage sites are fenced to avoid unauthorized access. Radiation-caution boards are displayed and radiation levels in and around these sites are periodically monitored. The radiation-level at the monazite enriched storage sites are also checked during the regulatory inspection by AERB to check whether they are comparable with the natural background levels.