

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1659
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
DEEP SEA MINING FOR MINERALS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a). whether the Government proposes to undertake deep sea mining for minerals in South : and Central Indian Ocean on the pattern of Chinese exploration, which has been allowed by International Seabed Authority;
- (b). if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c). the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a & b) No Madam. The International Seabed Authority has entered into a 15-year contract with India in the year 2002 for pursuing exploration activity for deep sea mineral resources in the Indian Ocean on lines similar to its contracts with other countries including China. In pursuance of this agreement, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has undertaken exploration activity for which a total area of 75000 sq. km. in the Central Indian Ocean Basin is available to it. India hopes to be amongst the few countries of the world which would be able to explore for deep sea mineral resources in the years ahead.

(c) Does not arise.