

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2389
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
RADIOACTIVE MINERALS BASED INDUSTRIES
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to start industries for manufacturing value added products from the radioactive mineral sand available in the coastal areas of Chavara, Kollam in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to promote the public undertaking to start manufacturing value added products using the radioactive mineral sand;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the present stage of the Titanium Sponge Project proposed to be started at Kerala Minerals, Metals Limited (KMML), Chavara and Kollam as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between KMML, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

- (a) Yes sir.
- (b) Any processing of radioactive mineral is in the domain of Government Sector and Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is authorised to process monazite to produce value added high purity rare earth elements i.e. mixed rare earths chloride (MRCL). MRCL is further processed in IREL's unit at Rare Earths Division (RED) , Aluva, Kerala.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) IREL is engaged in manufacturing value added products using beach sand minerals
- (e) An MoU is signed between M/s. Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML), Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) on 04.04.2013, which is valid till 03.04.2016.

An Expression of Interest (EoI) document was prepared by KMML to source a technology supplier for the 10,000 TPA titanium sponge plant and 4500 TPA titanium metal plant. The working committee held on 27.08.2014, authorised KSIDC to float an EoI after the approval on 08.11.2013 and decided to engage a technical consultant to evaluate the EoI and prepare detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

Since Titanium metal is strategic in nature, the response from Global titanium producers who are mainly from USA, Japan, Australia and Russia has been very poor for transfer of technology.

Considering the criticality of having a technology supplier in position for the project, joint committee has opined that EoI be floated by KSIDC, Government of Kerala only after technology suppliers are identified and their in-principle acceptance is received and take further course of action mutually with Government of Kerala/SAIL.