

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5520

ANSWERED ON:06.04.2017

Mineral Resources

Baker Shri George

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the under-sea mineral resources in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted or propose to conduct a major oceanic survey in the country's territorial waters to look for prospects of under-sea mineral resources across the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the results, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised for this since its inception, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the details of the targets fixed and the achievements made thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES, POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Geological Survey of India [GSI], an attached office of Ministry of Mines, has identified Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile), construction sand, carbonate sand, lime mud, phosphorite, gas hydrate, iron manganese crust etc. along Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ] & Territorial Waters [TW] off the coast of different States of the country. All minerals underlying the ocean within the TW and EEZ of the country vests in the Union.

The details of mineral resources estimated from TW are as follows:

S.No. Location

(off the coast of) Mineral Resource

[in million tonnes]

1. Maharashtra Ilmenite 5.19

2 Kerala and West coast of Tamil Nadu Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile) 11.26

3 Kerala Construction Sand 936.00

4 Andhra Pradesh Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile) 115.69

5 Odisha Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile) 68.00

(b) & (c): GSI has mapped an area of 1,32,585 sq. km. of TW out of the total area of TW of about 1,50,000 sq. km. in 5 km x 2 km grid with its research vessels Samudra Shaudhikama and Samudra Kaustubh. These zones were further surveyed in detail by core sampling on 1km x 1 km / 500m x 500m for evaluation of the minerals. The mineral resources estimated are up to a maximum depth of 4 m below seabed.

(d) & (e): The expenditure for the above surveys were met from the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) allotted by the Central Government to GSI. The expenditure of Marine & Coastal Survey Division (M&CSD) during the last three years and the current year is given below.

S. No. Financial Year Expenditure (Rs.in Crores)

1 2013-14 37.41

2 2014-15 82.46

3 2015-16 61.56

4 2016-17 47.76

Total 229.19

The targets set for different components of marine surveys by GSI for FS. 2016-17 and achievement are as follows:

Different Components of Marine Surveys Target for FS. 2016-17 Achievement (till Feb 2017)

1. Bathymetric Survey [Line (l) km] 10,000 15,247

2. Magnetic (lkm) 10,000 8,207

3. Swath Bathymetry (sq. km) 42,000 40,385

4. Seismic Survey (lkm) 5,000 2,449

5. Gravity (lkm) 16,000 14,306

6. Sub bottom profiling (lkm) 15,000 13,835
7. Systemetic coverage within TW+EEZ
(sq. km) 4,650 4,935

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