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Title: Regarding need to produce value added products from minerals produced by Indian Rare Earths Limited in Odisha.

DR. SIDHANT MOHAPATRA (BERHAMPUR): In October 1984, Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) a central PSU set up a beach Sand Mineral Industry in Ganjam Coast, Odisha. For the past 30 years about 40% of the mineral deposits have been mined. IREL under Department of Atomic Energy has a strong technical strength behind it and it should set up a Titanium Dioxide and Titanium Metal Plant near its Odisha Plant. This value added product will generate several downstream industries.

As of now IREL is producing about 2,20,000 tonnes of Illuminate annually, and almost the entire quantity is exported. IREL should set up a plant to convert this quantity to value added products without export. Only after utilising the present capacity, further capacity enhancement of mining has to be considered. This will ensure availability of resources in our country for future requirement. Otherwise in the next 20 years the balance resource will be exhausted. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take remedial steps in the this regard.