

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*256
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

PROJECT UNCOVER

*256. SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large deposits of heavy beach minerals were found along the 974 km. Andhra Pradesh coastline during a survey by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a comprehensive report to the Union Government recently with regard to 160 blocks identified by the agency to facilitate the auction of the areas containing 38.64 million tonnes of minerals and if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether GSI surveys using satellite data have found huge deposits of manganese in Vizianagaram, Bauxite in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha and Baryte in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether GSI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Geosciences Australia for assistance in this regard and a pilot project under the name 'Project Uncover' has been launched in Bundelkhand area of North India and Kadapa and Dharwad areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.256 FOR ANSWER ON 04.01.2018 ASKED BY SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY AND SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA REGARDING PROJECT UNCOVER.

(a): Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of Ministry of Mines, has not assessed the heavy beach minerals along the coastline of Andhra Pradesh. However, GSI has delineated heavy minerals from the offshore regions of Andhra Pradesh from water depths between 5 and 40 meters(m). Total heavy mineral resource estimated up to 1 m below seabed from Andhra offshore is 53.61 million tonnes based on initial estimation through reconnaissance work. From this mineralized zone, a total of 160 mineral blocks of 1' latitude x 1' longitude size have been delineated. The estimated resource on the basis of reconnaissance survey of these 160 blocks is 38.64 million tonnes.

(b): The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not submitted any report to the Union Government.

(c): Satellite data have been used by GSI in the preliminary stage of exploration for manganese in Vizianagaram, Bauxite in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and Baryte in Kadapa district. It is to be noted that finding out mineral deposits exclusively based on satellite data is not possible.

GSI has carried out exploration for Bauxite deposits on the north coastal area of Andhra Pradesh, Baryte deposits in Cuddappah and Manganese deposits in Vizianagaram districts. A resource of 567.80 million tonnes of Bauxite has been established in Ananthagiri-Chintalapalli-Saparlagudem and Jeerala area of Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts in addition to 142.0 million tonnes of Bauxite in Gurteedu area of East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.

As regards Baryte, 62.0 million tonnes of resource has been established in Mangampeta, Cuddappah district. In Vizianagaram district, 15.64 million tonnes of Manganese ore has been established in Kuduru-Garividi and Garbham area.

(d): GSI and Geoscience Australia (GA) have signed an Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technical Cooperation on 1.9.2015. Subsequently, a Terms of Reference has been signed between GSI and GA to run a pilot project under the name "Project Uncover" for targeting deep-seated and concealed mineral deposits. The Project area covers 620 km. long North Delhi Fold Belt-Bundelkhand transect and 560 km. long Dharwar-Cuddappah transect.
