

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF MINES

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 30.11.2009

ANSWERED ON

DEVELOPMENT OF MINERALS UNDERLYING OCEANS .

1142

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR

Will the Minister of COAL & MINES be pleased to state :-

- (a) the details of the development of minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf, or other maritime zones of India;
- (b) whether Government has developed its own indigenous infrastructure in this regard or advantage of the expertise or infrastructure of established organizations like ONGC is also being taken;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated for the research and development activities during the last three years;
- (d) whether these were fully utilized; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated for research and development, if any, which have lapsed ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a): Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been carrying out systematic seabed survey within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India since 1983 with the help of one ocean-going research vessel and two coastal launches. During the survey, GSI have delineated Economic Mineral Bearing Zones within the territorial waters, continental shelf and beyond within the EEZ of India. The off-shore investigations of GSI include

- (i) preparation of geological, geophysical & geochemical maps of the seabed, and
- (ii) identification of potential areas of non-living resources of the sea bed.

(b): Identification of the non-living mineral resources could be achieved by seabed survey undertaken using the existing infrastructure and expertise onboard the ocean going research vessel and the two coastal launches of GSI. In addition, for map compilation purposes deep seismic data from ONGC is also incorporated.

(c) to (e) : The details of funds allocated and the expenditure made by GSI during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

2006-07
2007-08
2008-09

Budget Allotted
Fund utilized
Budget Allotted
Fund utilized
Budget Allotted
Fund utilized