

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3881
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, APRIL 02, 2018**

SEABED MINERAL RESOURCES EVALUATION

3881. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that three state-of-the-art research vessels carried out high resolution seabed mapping and evaluation of natural resources;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the major objectives were to identify potential zones of favourable mineralization and evaluate marine mineral resources; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) Yes, Sir. Three research vessels were used for recent exploration of polymetallic nodules and polymetallic sulfides.**
- (b) Oceanographic Research Vessels Sagar Kanya and Akademik Boris Petrov were used for seabed mapping in the Central Indian Ocean Basin to understand the bathymetry and the topography of the Area of 75,000 square kilometer retained by India for exploration of polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean. Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar was used for exploration of polymetallic sulfides in South West Indian Ocean.**
- (c) Yes, Sir. The major objectives were to undertake seabed mapping and sampling for exploration of polymetallic nodules and polymetallic sulfides.**
- (d) The mapping and sampling were carried out to ascertain abundance and grade of polymetallic nodules along with the topography of the Area in Central Indian Ocean Basin. Surveys were undertaken to obtain signatures of hydrothermal sulfides in South West Indian Ocean Basin.**
