

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1965
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

EXTRACTION OF POLYMETALLIC NODULES

1965. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to extract polymetallic nodules from the Clarion-Clipperton zone in the upcoming years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any time frame to extract such polymetallic nodules from the deep seas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to use these extracted polymetallic nodules (PMN) for the country energy security, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): Ministry of Earth Sciences has informed that for extraction of polymetallic nodules from the Clarion-Clipperton zone, it is necessary to have a contract with the International Seabed Authority. Presently, no contract has been signed with the International Seabed Authority, United Nations for Polymetallic Nodules at Clarion-Clipperton zone. A need for the same will be assessed based on technical factors and geopolitical situations. Further, issuing of such extraction contract by the International Seabed Authority in deep seabed has not been started so far.

(b): Ministry of Earth Sciences on behalf of Government of India has an ongoing polymetallic nodules exploration contract in the central Indian Ocean Basin valid till 2027. However, for extracting polymetallic nodules there is a need for having an exploitation contract to be issued by International Seabed Authority and issuing such contract by the Authority in deep seabed has not been started so far.

(c): As administrative clearance for deep sea mining of polymetallic nodules has not been made by the International Seabed Authority, no future plan for using polymetallic nodules for India's energy security has been taken up.
