

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1953
ANSWERED ON 08/08/2024

LICENCE FOR SEABED MINERAL EXPLORATION

1953. SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of India's applications made with the International Seabed Authority for grant of mineral exploration licences at different locations in the Indian Ocean;
- (b) whether economic and environmental viability studies are being undertaken with respect to seabed mineral exploration; and
- (c) the status of India's manned deep ocean mission, Samudrayaan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) Two applications submitted by India to the International Seabed Authority for approval of work plan for exploration of polymetallic sulphides and cobalt crust in Indian Ocean are under consideration of International Seabed Authority. India already holds two contracts with the International Seabed Authority for exploration of polymetallic nodules at the Central Indian Ocean Basin and polymetallic sulphides at Central and South West Indian Ridge in Indian Ocean.
- (b) Seabed resource estimation and environmental studies at mineral exploration sites is an integral component of the contract with the International Seabed Authority. For this, geological, geophysical, oceanographic and biological data are collected from the allocated contract Area of the Indian Ocean.
- (c) The Samudrayaan project under the Deep Ocean Mission is for the development of a manned submersible to carry three people to a depth of 6000 meters in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors for ocean exploration and observation. The entire vehicle design has been completed and various sub-components like underwater battery, propulsion system, underwater telephone, navigation and communication devices, power distribution and control systems, personnel sphere for 500 m water depth, lift support system, control software etc have been realised.
