GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5520
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06TH APRIL, 2017

MINERAL RESOURCES

5520. SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the under-sea mineral resources in the country, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether the Government has conducted or propose to conduct a major oceanic survey in the country's territorial waters to look for prospects of under-sea mineral resources across the country;
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the results, State/UT-wise;
(d) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised for this since its inception, State/UT-wise; and
(e) the details of the targets fixed and the achievements made thereon?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES, POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Geological Survey of India [GSI], an attached office of Ministry of Mines, has identified Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile), construction sand, carbonate sand, lime mud, phosphorite, gas hydrate, iron manganese crust etc. along Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ] & Territorial Waters [TW] off the coast of different States of the country. All minerals underlying the ocean within the TW and EEZ of the country vests in the Union.

The details of mineral resources estimated from TW are as follows:

S.No.	Location (off the coast of)	Mineral	Resource [in million tonnes]
1.	Maharashtra	Ilmenite	5.19
2	Kerala and West coast of Tamil Nadu	Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile)	11.26
3	Kerala	Construction Sand	936.00
4	Andhra Pradesh	Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile)	115.69
5	Odisha	Heavy Mineral Placers (Ilmenite, Monazite, Garnet, Zircon, Sillimanite, Rutile)	68.00

(b) & (c): GSI has mapped an area of 1,32,585 sq. km. of TW out of the total area of TW of about 1,50,000 sq. km. in 5 km x 2 km grid with its research vessels Samudra Shaudhikama and Samudra Kaustubh. These zones were further surveyed in detail by core sampling on 1km x 1 km / 500m x 500m for evaluation of the minerals. The mineral resources estimated are up to a maximum depth of 4 m below seabed.

(d) & (e): The expenditure for the above surveys were met from the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) allotted by the Central Government to GSI. The expenditure of Marine & Coastal Survey Division (M&CSD) during the last three years and the current year is given below.

S. No.	Financial Year	Expenditure (Rs.in Crores)
1	2013-14	37.41
2	2014-15	82.46
3	2015-16	61.56
4	2016-17	47.76
Total		**229.19**

The targets set for different components of marine surveys by GSI for FS. 2016-17 and achievement are as follows:

Different Components of Marine Surveys	Target for FS. 2016-17	Achievement (till Feb 2017)
1. Bathymetric Survey [Line (l) km]	10,000	15,247
2. Magnetic (lkm)	10,000	8,207
3. Swath Bathymetry (sq. km)	42,000	40,385
4. Seismic Survey (lkm)	5,000	2,449
5. Gravity (lkm)	16,000	14,306
6. Sub bottom profiling (lkm)	15,000	13,835
7. Systemetic coverage within TW+EEZ (sq. km)	4,650	4,935

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