

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.: 2055
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.12.2017

Mining of Atomic Minerals in CRZ

2055: SHRI KESINENI NANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has relaxed norms to allow mining of atomic minerals in Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ);
- (b) if so, the details and the rationale behind the said move;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to gauge the areas affected and the subsequent impact of this amendment and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether his Ministry has dispensed with the requirement of a public notice and instead of first issuing a draft has straight away come out with a final amendment to the notification; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a), (b) & C: Mining of rare minerals, as listed by the Department of Atomic Energy, is already a regulated and permissible activity in the CRZ-III areas in terms of CRZ Notification, 2011. With a view to impart more clarity, this provision has been amended for permitting mining of atomic minerals notified under Part-B of the First Schedule of the Mining and Minerals (Development) Act, 1957 occurring as such or in association with one or other minerals. As a matter of abundant precaution in CRZ-I areas (Inter-Tidal Zone), only manual mining of such atomic minerals has been permitted only for agencies authorised by Department of Atomic Energy. Such mining of atomic minerals is, however, permitted only through manual means, without deploying drilling/blasting/heavy earth moving machinery etc. in the Inter-Tidal Zone with the objective of environment protection.
- (d) & (e): Since the amendment in the Notification was only with a view to impart clarity and permit mining operations for atomic minerals by the Department of Atomic Energy in the CRZ areas, the requirement of public notice was dispensed with in accordance with the Environment Protection Rules.
