

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4679
ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

SEA MINERALS

4679. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the proposal to mine seas for minerals along with the benefits and risks associated with it;
- (b) whether the Government has consulted with the coastal communities and other stakeholders to address their concerns and ensure their participation in the decision-making process and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether India has a long-term plan to monitor and evaluate the environmental and economic impacts of sea mining and make necessary adjustments and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the revenues from sea mining will be utilized for the welfare of the coastal communities and the development of marine infrastructure;
- (e) whether partnerships with foreign companies are necessary to mine seas for minerals and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government has conducted a comprehensive impact assessment of sea mining on the marine ecosystem and the livelihoods of the coastal communities and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): Mining in seas for minerals is permitted as per the provisions of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development & Regulation) [OAMDR] Act, 2002.

(b): Yes, Sir. As per Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy (PLCP), all stakeholders including coastal communities have been consulted on the proposed amendment to the OAMDR Act, 2002. A total of 67 stakeholders, including fisherman organizations have given their views.

(c) & (f): The environmental impact of sea mining is regulated under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 administered by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

(d): The revenues from sea mining will be deposited in Consolidated Fund of India. The expenditure out of Consolidated Fund of India is made as per the budget approved.

(e): As per Section 6 of OAMDR Act, 2002, the Central Government shall not grant an operating right to any person unless such person-

(a) is an Indian national, or a company as defined in section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956); and

(b) satisfies such conditions as may be prescribed:

Provided that no production lease for atomic minerals or prescribed substances may be granted without consultation with the Department of the Government of India dealing with the Atomic Energy.

Further, as per Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, 2020, 100% FDI is allowed through automatic entry route in Mining and Exploration of metal and non-metal ores including diamond, gold, silver and precious ores but excluding titanium bearing minerals and its ores; subject to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. However, 100 % FDI is allowed through Government entry route in Mining and mineral separation of titanium bearing minerals and ores, its value addition and integrated activities.
