

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 416
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd JULY, 2025**

Offshore Sand Mining at Kollam

416. Shri N K Premachandran:

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government conducted any study regarding the environmental impact on the offshore sand mining at Kollam, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to protect the existing ecological system for avoiding the distraction of Kollam bank rich in fish wealth, if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to safeguard the interest of fisherfolk and protect their livelihood;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government to withdraw from the move to offshore sand mining at Kollam;
- (e) whether the Government seek the opinion of fisherfolk before tendering process was initiated, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government consider issues that may arise due to Reef and Benthic disruption, turbidity and sediment plume and impact on Kollam bank; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI GEORGE KURIAN)

(a) to (g): The Ministry of Mines, Government of India enacted the Offshore Areas Mineral and Development Act, 2002, which came into effect in 2010. Ministry of Mines has informed that, so far, no mining has ever taken place in the offshore areas including in the territorial waters, EEZ, or continental shelf. As per the provisions of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024, before execution of an operating right, the bidders are required to obtain all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections as may be required under the applicable laws. Further, as per the provisions of the Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024, no production operations shall be undertaken except in accordance with a production plan. The production plan, *inter alia*, includes environment management plan, indicating the baseline information, impact assessment and mitigation measures. The said Act and the Rules ensure the environment protection and preventing any adverse impacts on the marine ecosystem. Hence, no such study has been conducted to assess the impact of offshore mining off Kerala coast at Kollam. A project proposal titled "Preparation of Terms of Reference for the Offshore Mining Areas Beyond 12 Nautical Miles" has been submitted by the National Institute of Oceanography to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has advised the Ministry of Mines, Government of India to ensure sustainability of the fisheries resources and the livelihood issues of the fishermen are adequately addressed in the production plan and in the environmental management plan.
