

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 410  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2010

**MARINE WEALTH**

**410. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:**

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified areas for coordinating and promoting ocean development activities in the country including mapping of resources, which can be commercially exploited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also undertaken any survey along the Indian Coasts including the coastal belt of Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES,  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF  
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS  
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a-b) The Government has taken up the work on survey and mapping of various marine resources. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is implementing a programme on Studies on Gas Hydrates Exploration and Technology Development. This includes mapping of possible locations of gas hydrates. The mineral exploration in the offshore areas of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India is carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) under the Ministry of Mines. The exploratory surveys and mapping of marine fishery resources in offshore waters of EEZ of India are carried out by the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), an attached office under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). Further, the marine biota is sampled by Ministry of Earth Sciences towards development of potential drugs from sea. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is also carrying out work on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination Technology (LTTD) for generating freshwater from sea including the survey and mapping of suitable sites for setting up the desalination plants.
- (c-d) Yes, Madam. The major outcomes in the course of survey along the Indian Coasts including coastal belt of Kerala are furnished at Annexure-I:

**The major outcomes of marine survey are as under:**

- (i) Based on the analysis of multichannel seismic data, two gas hydrates sites of 100 km x 100 km have been identified in Krishna- Godavari (KG) and Mahanadi basins for detailed survey under the programme on studies of gas hydrate exploration and technology development, implemented by Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- (ii) As a part of a programme on Marine Living Resources implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, qualitative information on deep-sea demersal fishery of Indian EEZ along the 200-1000 meters depth contours have been gathered. Similarly, comprehensive information on the marine benthos of the shelf and slope areas (upto 1000 meters) of the Indian EEZ have been generated under the programme.
- (iii) During the course of systematic seabed mapping, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) under the Ministry of Mines has delineated occurrences of offshore placer sands within inner continental shelf and construction grade silica sand within the middle to outer continental shelf off Kerala. About 100 square kilometer of placer sands is located in the west coast particularly in Kerala offshore.
- (iv) The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences has setup a Low Temperature Thermal Desalination Technology (LTTD) plant generating 1 lakh litre of fresh water per day for island communities at Kavarati, Lakshadweep by using the temperature gradient between the sea surface water and deep sea water.

\*\*\*\*\*