

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 448
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

MINING OF BEACH SAND MINERALS

448. SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has decided to revoke its 2019 ban on private entities for mining of beach sand minerals when the Ministry cited national security as a reason for keeping private players out of the extraction of these minerals, the reasons therefor;
- (b) Whether mines are State assets, if so, the reasons that States are denied mining leases and the ability to auction by inviting private players; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): Ministry of Mines had invited comments/suggestions of the stakeholders viz, Central Government Ministries/Departments, States Governments and Union Territories, mining industry, industry associations, general public, and other persons and entities concerned on the proposal to remove certain atomic minerals including beach sand minerals from Part B of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) [MMDR] Act, 1957.

(b) & (c): Ministry of Mines is responsible for legislation and regulation of mines and development of minerals within the territory of India. In pursuance to the entry No. 54 of List I, the Central Government have framed Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 which extends to the whole of India. As per the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957, State Governments are to implement the Act & Rules framed thereunder.

As per the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, concerned State Governments grant the mineral concessions for all the minerals located within the boundary of the State. Further, Auction Premium, District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Royalty are collected and retained by the State Governments.

However, for atomic minerals, where the grade of such mineral in such area is equal to or above such threshold value as may be notified by the Central Government, the composite licence or mining lease shall not be granted for an area to any person other than the Government, Government Company or Corporation.
