

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1636
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Deep sea mining in Kerala coastal areas

1636 SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has given any clearance for deep sea mining in Kerala coastal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Geological Programming Board submitted any study report to conduct offshore mining related to the environmental impact in concern over deep sea mining; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) The mining of sand, rocks, and other substrata materials is prohibited within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), which extends up to 12 nautical miles from the Low Tide Line (LTL) on the seaward side, as per the CRZ Notifications of 2011 and 2019. Additionally, the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended, apply up to the limit of territorial waters, i.e., 12 nautical miles. The Ministry has neither granted nor received any proposals for the Environmental Clearance for deep-sea mining off the coast of Kerala.

As per the information received from the Ministry of Mines, the first tranche of auction of 13 offshore blocks was launched on 28/11/2024, for the grant of composite licence i.e., exploration licence-cum-production lease. This includes three offshore blocks for construction sand off the coast of Kerala, beyond territorial waters.

The Ministry has not received any study report from the Central Geological Programming Board regarding the environmental impact concerns related to deep-sea mining.
