

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 78**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022

**MINING OF MINERAL SAND**

78. Shri N.K. PREMACHANDRAN

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give permission to the private sector for mining of mineral sand containing radioactive elements in the coastal region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to liberalize the security policy of our country by rescheduling the minerals for the purpose of giving mining permission to the private sector for the mining of mineral sand in the coastal area containing the radioactive elements;
- (d) if so the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take over the right vested with the State Governments with respect to giving licenses to mining of minerals;
- (f) if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (g) whether the Government examined the action of Mining Department regarding rescheduling of minerals for the purpose of giving permission to the private sector; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

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

are technology and energy critical(elements) having uses in space industry, electronics, information technology and communications, energy sector, electric batteries and the nuclear industry, and are critical in net zero emission commitment of India. Country is dependent on imports for most of these important commodities. These minerals have high economic importance and considerable supply risk to geo-political uncertainties.

- (e) No sir.
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- (f)

- (g) Department of Atomic Energy has communicated to Ministry of Mines & that Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) are economic heavy minerals found in the teri or beach sands, which include ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene, garnet, monazite, zircon and sillimanite. Of these, Monazite (mineral of Thorium and Uranium, which are radioactive in nature and have been notified as a 'prescribed substance' under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962) has strategic applications. BSM is listed under Part B (Atomic Minerals) of the First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957. Hence, the said minerals need not be removed/re-scheduled from the list of Atomic Minerals and to continue to be in Part-B of the First Schedule. The proposal for amendment to MMDR Act, 1957 is yet to be finalized.
- (h)

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