

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*76**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023  
**Increase in the price of Ilmenite sand**

\*76 Shri Jose K. Mani :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has noticed a steep increase in the price of Ilmenite sand by Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) over the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding the mineral resources mined by IREL from the beaches of Kerala over the last two years;
- (d) whether Government has any plans to supply Travancore Titanium Products Limited (TTPL), a PSU under the State Government of Kerala, with cheap and sufficient quantity of Ilmenite sand in order to meet TTPL's daily production requirements; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

---

- (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

Government of India  
Department of Atomic Energy

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. \*76 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2023 BY SHRI JOSE K. MANI REGARDING "INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF ILMENITE SAND".

---

- (a) & (b) Yes Sir. Ilmenite is a mineral under 'free' category hence follow market price. Extraction of Ilmenite is incidental to the process of extraction of radioactive Monazite by IREL (India) Ltd (IREL) for Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Since Ilmenite is under free category and open to all, the prices are driven by global market (demand-supply) dynamics. During the last two years i.e. between FY2020-21 and FY2021-22, the prices of TiO<sub>2</sub> pigment (major end-use application of Ilmenite) increased significantly and consequently, Ilmenite price in the world market saw an increase of over 90 %. IREL's prices are in keeping with these price changes.
- (c) Mineral resources mined by IREL, Chavara from beaches of Kerala during 2020-21 & 2021-22 was 394754 tons and 316456 tons respectively. About 38700t and 39300t of Ilmenite is extracted from these resources respectively.
- (d) & (e) Since it is a free market for Ilmenite, IREL is mandated to maintain uniform price to all customers in a particular market segment. IREL, therefore, has no discretionary powers to charge different price to any particular buyer in the TiO<sub>2</sub> value chain.

As regards supply quantity, the same is in accordance with various statutory clearances viz. Consent to Establish, Consent to Operate, availability of surface rights, content of Ilmenite in the mineral assemblage etc. including mining leases. Though IREL's established capacity can fully meet the demand of the downstream industry in Kerala, due to the dense inhabitation and surface right issues in mining area plant operates at about 35 % of its capacity.

\*\*\*\*\*