

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1721
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023.

Supply of Ilmenite to Travancore Titanium Products Limited (TTPL)

1721 Dr. John Brittas:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TTPL appealed multiple times to Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) to provide supply of adequate quantity of Ilmenite from IREL, Chavara Unit, so as to ensure its operational viability and that IREL have so far not honoured the demand;
- (b) details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that TTPL is sustaining huge losses owing to the shortage in the supply of Ilmenite, the major raw material in its production of Titanium Dioxide, from IREL; and
- (d) if so, whether Government will take a proactive decision in ensuring supply of adequate quantity of Ilmenite to TTPL?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, TTPL has been seeking more tonnage of Ilmenite from IREL for their TiO₂ pigment facility. In order to meet the demand of the downstream industry, IREL has established an integrated facility for mining and mineral processing at Chavara. The mineral processing plant is having the capacity of production of two lacs tons per annum of Ilmenite which is sufficient to meet the requirement of the industry of about 1.7 to 1.8 lakh tons per annum at full capacity. However, feed required from mines i.e. Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) ore to IREL is not available adequately for extraction of the processed mineral Ilmenite commensurate to the capacity. This is owing to want of surface rights and other diverse reasons including inhabitation in the feeder mines in Chavara. On account of this phenomenon, IREL is unable to produce to its capacity and, therefore, not in a position to meet the full requirement of the Kerala based downstream industries. IREL is in constant touch with the Government of Kerala to sort out the issues pertaining to its own feed constraints to enable to supply the full requirement of the downstream industry in Kerala seeking Ilmenite which includes TTPL. In the meantime, TTPL has been requested multiple times to source Ilmenite from IREL's OSCOM unit to meet their full demand, but TTPL is confined to seeking Ilmenite produced in Kerala only.

(c) & (d) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above .
