

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 359
ANSWERED ON 25/07/2024

DEEP OCEAN EXPLORATION OF POLY-METALLIC NODULES

359 SMT. SUMITRA BALMIK:

Will the Minister of **EARTH SCIENCES** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has come up with a deep ocean poly-metallic nodules extraction and exploration policy, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any regions have been identified for extraction of these nodules; and
- (c) the details of the expenditure incurred towards this initiative?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) The seabed area beyond national jurisdiction is governed by the International Seabed Authority (ISA), a body established under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). ISA develops rules, regulations and policies for the seabed minerals exploration and exploitation.
- (b) Ministry of Earth Sciences is carrying out polymetallic nodule resource characterisation and technology development activities in the allocated area of 75,000 sq km in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) as per the exploration contract signed with the ISA.
- (c) The expenditure incurred in last 3 years on exploration activities related to polymetallic nodule resource characterisation and technology development is about Rs. 30 crores.
