

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3962
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 2021**

OCEAN WATER SUITABILITY

3962. SHRI MADILA GURUMOORTHY:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed reports on survey and feasibility studies relating to the Industry Verticals specific with Nellore District Coast Line, Sea Coast and Ocean for food, energy, transportation, minerals, drinking water, leisure and health;
- (b) the details of sea/ocean water suitability activities for livelihood of citizens and revenue generation for Union and State Governments;
- (c) the details of survey, studies, assessment and feasibility done so far in this regard;
- (d) whether the CSIR Institutes/Organizations will add value to citizens and the Government in achieving five trillion economy;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by when a final report is likely to be made;
- (f) the time by when Deep Sea Mining is going to start on the coastline of Nellore district for extracting polymetallic modules that are found on the deep ocean floor rich in metals like copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese;
- (g) whether tenders have been called for in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (h) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared and the time by when it will be made available; and
- (i) the conclusive estimation of value of minerals, if commercially made available for Indian industry as import substitute to reach five trillion economy?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has not prepared any detailed report on survey and feasibility studies relating to industry verticals specific with Nellore District.
- (b) & (c) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous body of MoES, focuses on research on harnessing energy from the ocean waves, currents and thermal gradient, to generate electricity and desalinate sea water. NIOT also develops cutting edge technologies which can produce fresh drinkable water using Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) techniques. Three desalination plants based on LTTD technology have been setup at Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy Islands. MoES is not generating any revenue and these activities are for societal benefits.
- (d) & (e) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) through its constituent laboratory namely, Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Odisha as a part of its ongoing Research & Development (R&D) projects carried out marine Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for Krishnapatnam Power Plant of AP Genco and Krishnapatnam International Leather Complex (KPILC) for the development of proposed Mega Leather Cluster at Kothapatnam along the coastal district of Nellore.
- (f) There is no proposal with MoES for extracting polymetallic nodules along the coastline of Nellore District.
- (g), (h) & (i) Does not arise.
