

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2015

MINING OF MONAZITE

333. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is only allowed to mine Monazite as per the "Prescribed Substances List";
- (b) whether for allowing mining of rare earth minerals to private players, they need to store Monazite as per AERB rules and have to give a periodic reports to Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) in Hyderabad, Telangana;
- (c) if so, whether miners from Tamil Nadu who are mining beach sand containing Monazite are giving such reports to AMD in Hyderabad;
- (d) if so, details of reports so far submitted since inception of mining in Tamil Nadu, year-wise and leaseholder-wise; and
- (e) amount of Monazite stored and handed over to AMD since inception of mining, year-wise and leaseholder-wise?

ANSWER

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

- a) Yes Sir.
- b) Rare Earth Mineral related mining of beach sand minerals involves handling of Monazite, which is an atomic mineral under Schedule 1 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and a prescribed substance under Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and is therefore permitted only for Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Government. No private parties have been authorised for mining Rare Earth Minerals in Beach Sand Minerals (BSM). Monazite is the only rare earth bearing mineral present in beach sands.

Private parties have however been licensed to mine other minerals in BSM, subject to obtaining NOC from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) (for atomic minerals) and license from AERB (for radiological safety compliance).
- (c), (d)&(e) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) above pertaining to mining of Rare Earth mineral Monazite in BSM.
