

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2013

ILLEGAL MINING OF RARE EARTHS IN KERALA

6. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Rare Earth deposits in the districts of Kollam and Alleppey has been assessed by Government; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has noticed the large scale smuggling/illegal mining of the Rare Earths in Kerala; if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the schemes with Government to utilise the Rare Earth Deposits in the districts of Kollam and Alleppey?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

- (a) Yes Sir. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy, has assessed the *in situ* Rare Earth deposits in Kollam and Alleppey districts of Kerala which are of the order of 0.98 million tonnes.
- (b) Government has not received any official report or information in the matter of large scale smuggling/ illegal mining of Rare Earths in Kerala. However, in the recent past, certain press reports and other communications have been received in the matter.
- (c) Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (a Public Sector Unit under Department of Atomic Energy) has a plant in Chavara (Kerala) with a capacity for processing 2 lakh tonnes per annum of beach sand minerals. This plant is used for separation of Rare Earths alongwith other associated minerals.
