

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3259
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.04.2013

THORIUM DEPOSITS IN MANAVALAKURICHI IN TAMIL NADU

3259 SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Manavalakurichi in Southern Tamil Nadu is home to world's 30 per cent Thorium deposits;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that 96 out of 111 licenses for mining garnet have been given to one company/person;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has issued 44 licenses for mining ilmenite and all 44 have been given to one individual/firm;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for giving licences to one individual or firm; and
- (f) the procedure followed in issuing each of the above licence?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Indian beach sands contain large reserves of monazite, a mineral containing thorium, in the world. The percentage of monazite, in the beach sands at Manavalakurichi in Tamil Nadu is high.
- (b) No, Sir. As per the information furnished by the Government of Tamil Nadu, there are 81 mining leases granted for beach minerals in the State. Details of mining leases including garnet; lessee wise are given below:-

Name of the lessee	District	Total
Indian Rare Earths Ltd	Kanyakumari	03
	Madurai	02
	Tirunelveli	27
	Kanyakumari	06
	Thoothukudi	01
Transworld's Garnet Pvt. Ltd.	Tirunelveli	14
	Thoothukudi	02
	Tirunelveli	09
	Thoothukudi	01
Tamil Nadu Minerals	Tirunelveli	01
M. Ramesh	Tirunelveli	01
K. Thangaraj	Tirunelveli	01
Southern Enterprises	Trichy	03
Indian Garnet Sand Company	Trichy	03
	Thoothukudi	01
S.S. Minerals	Trichy	01
Riverways Mines & Minerals	Trichy	01
Cauvery Garnet Pvt. Ltd.	Trichy	01
Nexus Corporate	Trichy	01
Industrial Mineral India Pvt. Ltd.	Thoothukudi	01
Maruthi Minerals	Trichy	01
	Total	81

- (c)&(d) No, Sir. 42 Mining Leases, in which ilmenite is included, have been granted to various firms including Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of India. The details are given below:-

Name of the lessee	District	Total
Beach Minerals Sand Company Pvt. Ltd	Tirunelveli	02
	Thoothukudi	01
Beach Minerals Sand Company Pvt. Ltd.	Tirunelveli	07
V.V. Mineral	Tirunelveli	23
	Kanyakumari	04
	Thoothukudi	01
Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	Kanyakumari	03
Industrial Mineral Pvt. Ltd.	Thoothukudi	01
	Total	42

- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) State Governments are empowered to grant mineral concession for all minerals located within the boundary of the State, under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. For minerals specified in the First Schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957, before granting the Mineral concession, approval of Central Govt. is necessary. The terms and conditions of Reconnaissance Permit (RP), Prospecting Licence (PL) and Mining Lease (ML) are prescribed under the MMDR Act and the Rules framed thereunder. Before allowing grant of RP/PL/ML, the State Governments ensure compliance of amended provisions of the Act and Rules and other applicable Acts and Rules including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environmental Notification dated 27.01.1994 as issued and amended by Ministry of Environment and Forests.
