

The Offshore Mineral Policy Session, National Conclave on Mines & Minerals

Date: 05-07-2016, Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Venue- Studio I (Meeting Floor)

The Offshore Mineral Policy session was chaired by Shri R. Sridharan, Union Mines Additional Secretary. Shri Sudhaker Shukla, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Mines, Government of India was the Rapporteur for the Session.



Shri R. Sridharan, Union Mines Additional Secretary & Shri Sudhaker Shukla, Economic Adviser chairing the session

At the outset Additional Secretary Mines mentioned that ways and means are being explored for extending revenue sharing model to the offshore concessions. Economic Adviser highlighted that there are inherent deficiencies in the mechanism of allocation of blocks. Setting up of Technical parameters and financial strength of the participants was required upfront. Further CRZ notification of 2011 put question mark on continuity of the present regime. Required changes are in offing and will be put up for public consultation in a months time.

Shri V. Devdas, Dy. Director General Marine & Coastal Surveys, GSI made a presentation on “Offshore Exploration Status, Challenge & Way Forward”. During the presentation he stated that GSI has carried out exploration for offshore minerals and have identified resources of placer minerals, sand and lime mud. So far 123 million tonnes of placer minerals have been identified by GSI. Area covering 11,000 sq.km along the continental slope off Gujarat and Maharashtra have been identified for lime mud. Future programme of exploration of GSI include Phosphorites, Rare Earth Metals & Yttrium and Seafloor Massive Sulphides.



Shri V. Devdas, Dy. DG, GSI making presentation

Shri R. K. Sinha, Controller General, IBM made a presentation on “Key features of Offshore Mineral Policy & Grant of Offshore Mineral Blocks” and deliberated on the issues concerning grant of offshore mineral concessions in light of the CRZ notification 2011 and other issues and remedial measures being taken up to address the issues.



Shri R. K. Sinha, CG, IBM making presentation

Participants were mainly worried about cancellation of exploration licences. Further on encroachment of areas to the onshore areas, a Madras High Court judgment was sighted.