

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3304
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
DEMAND AND PRODUCTION OF GOLD
H.G. RAMULU

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated annual domestic demand of gold;
- (b) the total production of gold indigenously in the country;
- (c) the present annual contribution from Karnataka out of the total production; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the exploration of gold in the greenstone belts of the Karnataka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) There are no firm estimates of demand of gold in the country. Very rough estimates suggest that demand of gold in India is about 600 tonnes per annum.

(b) The total gold production in the country as reported by Bharat Gold Mines Limited(BGML), Hutti Gold Mines Limited(HGML), an Hindustan Copper Limited(HCL) (which produces gold as a by product), during the three last years was as follows;

(In Kilogram)

1997-98	2865
1998-99	2901
1999-2000	3108 (provisional)

(c) The present annual contribution of gold production from Karnataka works out to be about 78%.

(d) Geological Survey of India, a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines responsible for regional mapping and exploration of minerals in the country, has been carrying out exploration of gold in Karnataka. In addition to the on-going items, GSI will be taking up investigation for gold in, Shimoga district, Hutti North block, Hutti-Maski schist belt, Raichur district; prospecting for gold in volcanics-sediments contact zone between Rangayanadurga and Harpanhalli, Chitradurga district, etc during the Field Season 2000-2001. Besides this, 16 Reconnaissance Permits have been granted recently by Govt. of India in Karnataka for diamond, gold and associated minerals.