

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4188
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
EXPLORATION OF PROSPECTIVE MINES
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to encourage the exploration of prospective mines, excavation and its distribution in the potentially mineral rich States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to explore the existence of new mineral wealth;
- (c) whether the Government propose to form an Indo-French working Group on mineral exploration; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The initiatives of the Government are aimed at encouraging exploration and development of the mineral resources in the potentially mineral rich States. Exploration of minerals are being carried out through its own agencies like Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), State Directorates of Geology and Mining (DGM) and by the private sectors.

(b) Mineral exploration will be continued by GSI in all mineral rich States. MECL is continuing exploration in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Orissa and West Bengal. 115 prospecting licences/reconnaissance permits have been granted in favour of many companies for aerial prospecting in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir. The Indo-French Working Group on Mineral Exploration and Development was set up under the aegis of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Co-operation in 1986, to enhance the capabilities of the Indian organisations in the field of geology and mining and also to obtain state-of-the-art technology and equipment. French bilateral assistance aggregating around 204.23 million FF has been given through 21 projects under the Indo-French Financial Protocol.