

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5322
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
MICA RESERVES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mica reserves in different States including Maharashtra are depleting;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set-up Mica based industries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a), (b) and (c): As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate Office of the Department of Mines as on 1.4.1995, the recoverable reserve of mica in the country are placed at 59980 tonnes. As per available information with IBM, no economically viable mica deposits have been located in Maharashtra.

As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration/exploitation of the minerals including mica has been thrown open to private entrepreneurs. In this liberalized set up, it is for the private initiatives to explore and exploit minerals and set up mineral based industry which in turn depends on the economic viability of such projects. The Government does not have any proposal to set up mica based industry at present.