

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1929
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2002
IMPORT OF MINERALS
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum of various kinds of minerals imported during the last three years, year-wise and mineral - wise;
- (b) the main channelising agency through which these minerals have been imported;
- (c) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the import of these minerals and materials in the near future;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken in this direction ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

- (a) The details of total quantum of various kinds of minerals imported during the last three years, year-wise and mineral wise are contained in the publication `Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Volume-II (Imports)-Annual Number` published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.
- (b) Minerals are covered under Chapters 25,26 and 27 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items. As per section V of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2002-2007 on `mineral products` only 9 items as classified under Exim Heading No. 27.10 of Chapter 27, are under State Trading Enterprise (STE) arrangement for imports. These items are importable through Indian Oil Corporation only. All other items under Chapters 25,26 and 27 are either freely importable or importable under restricted category as indicated in the Exim Policy 2002-2007.
- (c), (d) & (e) Minerals are imported by the user industries as per their requirement of specific grades and characteristics. India is also deficient in certain minerals like crude petroleum, coking coal, base metals like copper, lead-zinc, high value metals and minerals like gold, diamond, nickel, tungsten, rock phosphate, potash, etc. The Government has amended the mining statutes in 1994 and in December 1999 for facilitating and encouraging private sector investment for exploration for minerals.