

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3101  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002  
EXPLORATION OF PRECIOUS AND SEMI PRECIOUS STONES IN ORISSA  
ANANTA NAYAK

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

- (a) whether a huge deposits of precious and semi-precious stones have been discovered in Orissa especially in the Western part of the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the proper exploration of these stones ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD )

(a) & (b) : A number of small deposits of precious and semi-precious stones have been discovered in Western Parts of Orissa as by Orissa Mining Corporation and Geological Survey of India. Precious and semi-precious stones viz. ruby, sapphire and their star varieties, emerald, aquamarine, chrysoberyl, alexandrite, topaz, garnet, tourmaline of various colours and iolite are found in the districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Subarnapur, Sambalpur and Rayagada in Orissa.

(c) : Investigations for the exploration of precious and semi-precious stones are carried out by Geological Survey of India in parts of Orissa. The Orissa Government have entrusted the work of exploration, exploitation and marketing of gemstones to the Orissa Mining Corporation, in the State.