

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3073
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2003
PRODUCTION, IMPORT AND EXPORT OF MINERALS
ANANTA NAYAK;BASUDEB ACHARIA;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of minerals presently being imported and exported;
- (b) the annual import and export of those minerals during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the details of quantity of different minerals imported, amount paid and projected demand till the end of Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (d) the details of differences of rate of indigenous and imported minerals;
- (e) whether the Government has explored the possibility of meeting the demand by exploring indigenous mines;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the Government proposed to increase the export of these minerals;
- (h) whether the Government has floated a proposal to venture in or picking up equity in mining abroad, on the line of petroleum PSUs; and
- (i) if so, the details of action taken by the Public Sector Mining Companies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) to (d) As per information received from Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under administrative control of Ministry of Mines, important non fuel and non atomic minerals exported from India include iron ore, manganese ore, mica, limestone, nickel, alumina, bauxite, building and monumental stones, chromite, diamond (mostly cut), emerald, granite, marble, precious and semi precious stones, slate, zinc ore and concentrates etc. The minerals mainly imported into India are antimony, molybdenum, nickel, the platinum group of metals, tin, tungsten, potash, native sulphur, base metals, certain grades of graphite, noble metals, precious stones, rock phosphate, asbestos, boron minerals (borax), rough diamond, fluorite, magnesite etc. The value of all minerals exported (including re-exports) and imported during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs.in crores)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Imports	96522	92797	117294
Exports	34411	35136	46618

Mineral-wise details of projected demand till the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, differences in rates of indigenous and imported minerals are not centrally maintained for all minerals.

(e) to (g): As per National Mineral Policy (NMP) 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all non fuel and non atomic minerals have been thrown open to private investment and therefore, commercial exploitation of minerals take place as per economic viability of the mineral concerned. Similarly export of any mineral will depend on its availability and commercial viability.

(h) and

(i): Ministry of Mines have not floated any specific proposal for acquiring mining equity abroad. Indian companies are free to acquire mining rights abroad depending on commercial viability of the project and availability of funds for the purpose.