

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3334  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000  
GOLD RESERVES  
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

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

- (a) The details of the gold deposit areas in the country and the approximate quantum of gold reserved in those areas, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of gold reserved;
- (c) whether the gold mining in all these areas would be economically viable;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the cost of gold mining in those areas?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (e) As per the information maintained by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, the estimated reserves of gold in the country as on 1.4.1995 are given in the following Statement:-

Recoverable Reserves (As on 1.4.1995).  
(In tonnes)

State	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total	Ore/Metal
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All India	4178910	10003179	3605886	17787975	Ore
	21	36	11		68 Metal
Andhra Pradesh	438446		456749	2896086	3791881 Ore
	1	1	9		11 Metal
Bihar	7200			7200	Ore
	negligible			negligible	Metal
Karnataka	3270984	8910250	682200		12863434 Ore
	20	33	1		54 Metal
Kerala	462280	96180		558460	Ore
	0.16	0.03		0.19	Metal
Madhya Pradesh		540000	27000		567000 Ore
	1.11	0.5		1.61	Metal

Prior to 1993, exploitation of gold was reserved for the public sector. Under the National Mineral Policy, 1993, the exploration and exploitation of gold has been de-reserved and thrown open to private sector. While private sector Companies have been granted large area prospecting licences for gold under the liberalised policy, gold mining in the country at present is being done only by the Public Sector Units, viz. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a Central Government Public Sector Enterprise and Hutti Gold Mine Limited (HGML), a public sector undertaking of State Government of Karnataka. The cost of production of 10 grams of gold by BGML during 1999-2000 was Rs 20406 (provisional) while the price of 10 grams of gold ranges between Rs. 4300-4500.