

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3432  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000  
AVAILABILITY OF GEM STONES IN ORISSA  
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO

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

- (a) whether huge tracts of Gem Stones (Precious and Semi precious) are abundantly available in Orissa;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to regulate the mining of these areas properly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government propose to formulate a proper policy for exploiting this rich natural resources and getting the entire area of Orissa surveyed and mapped by the Geological Survey of India alongwith satellite survey and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, a Subordinate Office of the Ministry of Mines, 28 gem bearing tracts have been identified in Angul/Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Rayagada and Phulbani districts of Orissa.

(b) to (d): Mineral Concessions are granted by the State Governments as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder. State Government of Orissa has informed that of the 28 gem bearing tracts identified in Orissa, prospecting has been completed in 23 by the Directorate of Mining and Geology, Orissa and M/s Orissa Mining Corporation, a State Government of Orissa enterprise. In accordance with its Gem Stone Policy of 1998, the State Government has decided to undertake expeditious prospecting in the balance 5 tracts and the State Government is taking expeditious steps to grant mining leases in the prospected or otherwise proved gemstone areas, so as to exploit the gemstone reserves systematically & scientifically. Geological Survey of India has conducted investigation for diamond in parts of Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Nawarangpur, Sonepur and Sundargarh districts of Orissa. Geological Survey of India has also carried out investigation for other precious and semi-precious stones like garnet, Aquamarine, Sapphire, Ruby, Apatite, Corundum and Zircon etc. in Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Koraput districts in Orissa. Basic geological mapping in the State of Orissa has been done by Geological Survey of India.