

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3532
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004
GEM STONES IN ORISSA
Deo Shri Bikram Keshari

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES 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 proposes to regulate the mining of these areas properly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a proper policy for exploiting these rich natural resources and getting the entire area of Orissa surveyed and mapped by the Geological Survey of India along with satellite survey; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) : As per information available with Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), both subordinate office under the Department of Mines, 28 gem bearing tracts have been identified. Some of the important tracts are

- (i) Jillingdhar - Hinjilibahal, Orabahal - Urharanga and Ghatspara - Singiiharan sectors of Bolangir district,
- (ii) Ghuchepada - Antaria, Ghumsar - Dehli and Muribahal - Tentelkhuntia sectors of Bolangir district,
- (iii) Badamal - Mursundi and Binika - Sonepur sectors of Subarnapur district,
- (iv) Charbati - Beldihi and Baghpada - Tabalai sectors of Sambalpur district,
- (v) Katmal - Babebir - Amera sector of Nuapada district,
- (vi) Baudh - Ramagarh and Kantamal - Manmunda sectors of Baudh district. However, there is no authenticated report regarding the availability of huge deposits of gemstones in Orissa State.

(b) & (c) : 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 there under viz. Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (MCR) and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988. The regulation of mining of minerals including gemstones is done as per the provisions of MCR. Gemstones (precious and semi-precious) are minerals included in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 and before granting mineral concessions for these minerals, the State Governments are required to obtain approval of the Central Government for the same.

IBM has already approved twenty mining plans for 20 years, of gem stones and consequently, the State Governments has also granted leases to fourteen lessees. Six mines of semi-precious stones have already been opened in Kalahandi district of Orissa.

(d) : Gem Stone Policy, 1998 has been formulated by the State Government for proper exploitation of the gem stones. GSI has already completed geological mapping of the entire State of Orissa.

(e) : GSI has carried out 1st generation geological mapping of the entire state of Orissa on 1 : 50000/63,360 scale. Some of the important areas of geological interest had been covered by 2nd generation mapping on 1 : 25000 scale. GSI has also covered some parts of the state by aero-geophysical survey. However, satellite survey is not carried out by GSI, though satellite data products like space imageries have been used in some specific areas to aid geological mapping.