

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:589

ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004

EXPLORATION OF NON- FUEL AND NON -ATOMIC MINERALS

Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) whether the Government has thrown open the exploration and exploitation of some non-fuel and non-atomic minerals to private sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons why these minerals are being given to private sector for exploration and exploitation; and
- (d) the response of private sector to the proposal of Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b): 13 minerals namely, iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals which were earlier reserved for exploitation by public sector were thrown open for private investment in 1993. Since then all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals are open for exploration and exploitation by the private sector.

Â©: The reason for opening up the mining sector for private sector is to attract private sector investment and induct foreign technology and foreign equity participation in exploration and mining for important minerals.

(d): The non-fuel and non-atomic minerals sector have received large investments from the private sector which is contributing substantially to the development of the mining sector in the country.

The Global Mining Community has reacted positively to India's investment policies and Indian subsidiaries of eighteen major international mining companies have registered their presence in the country. 165 Reconnaissance Permits having an area of 2,19,665 sq. kms. in ten states have already been granted. Furthermore, Foreign Investment Promotion Board(FIPB) has granted 73 approvals to investors from twenty countries for Foreign Direct Investment in mining sector involving an investment of Rs.4044 crores.