

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4887
ANSWERED ON:23.05.2006
MICA RESERVE
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mica Reserve in different States including Maharashtra is depleting;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set up mica based industries in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (Dr. T SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) & (b): As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the all India resources of mica have been estimated at 59,890 tonnes as on 1.4.2000 as per United Nations Framework Classification. Mica reserves as on 1.4.1995 were placed at 64,202 tonnes. Due to lack of demand for natural sheet mica in the international market, exploration of deep seated deposits involving huge investments are not being attempted. As per available information with IBM, no economically viable mica deposits have been located in Maharashtra though one mining lease has been granted in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

(c): As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration/exploitation of the minerals including mica has been thrown open to private entrepreneurs. However, exploration of mica and setting up of mica based industries depend on commercial viability of such activity.