

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE  
(1971-72)**

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

**ELEVENTH REPORT**

**MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES**

**[Action taken by Government on the recommendations  
contained in the Hundred and Twenty-Sixth  
Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth  
Lok Sabha) on the Erstwhile Ministry of  
Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines  
and Metals—Geological Survey  
of India]**



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(1971-72)

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## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eleventh Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals--Geological Survey of India.

2. The Hundred and Twenty-sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 29th April, 1970. Replies indicating action taken on the various recommendations contained in the Report were furnished by Government on the 14th April, 1971. The Study Group 'F' of the Estimates Committee considered the replies received from the Ministry on the 4th August, 1971 and approved the draft Report on the same day. The Report was subsequently adopted by the Committee on the 12th August, 1971.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters:—

I. Report;

II. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government;

III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply;

IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee; and

V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 126th Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix to this Report. It would be observed therefrom that out of 32 recommendations made in the said Report 26 recommendations i.e. 81.25 per cent have been



(viii)

accepted by Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue 3 recommendations i.e., 9.37 per cent. Final replies of Government in respect of 3 recommendations i.e. 9.37 per cent are still awaited.

NEW DELHI;

August 17, 1971

Śravaṇa 26, 1893 (S).

KAMAL NATH TEWARI,

*Chairman,*

*Estimates Committee.*

## **CHAPTER I**

### **REPORT**

The Committee note that the recommendations contained in their Hundred and Twenty-sixth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals (Department of Mines & Metals)—Geological Survey of India, have been replied to by Government generally to the Committee's satisfaction.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation (S. No. 1) Para 1.25**

In view of the fact that there is a shortage of scientific and other technical incumbents in Geological Survey of India dealt with in para 4.47 and proper supervision of technical work referred to in paras 4.58 to 4.60 of the Report, the Committee feel that if adequate administrative assistance is made available to the Director-General and other Directors of the G.S.I. it will relieve them to some extent from attending to administrative problems and enable them to concentrate scientific work.

#### **Reply of Government**

Government have selected an officer for the post of Director Administration in G.S.I. who with his administrative background, would be able to relieve the Director General G.S.I. of many routine administrative duties. The selected officer has recently joined the post. The proposals of augmenting the strength of the existing administrative staff has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

#### **Recommendation (S. No. 2) Para 1.32**

The Committee are pained to note that low priority is given to systematic mapping which is its primary function and that it has taken more than a century for the Geological Survey of India to systematically map on 1:63;360 (1" = 1 Mile) scale only 44 per cent of the total area of the country leaving a balance of 56 per cent (about 18.43 lakhs sq. km.) still to be covered. As the geological maps form the very basis of further work in the various fields of earth science including mineral exploration, geotechnical and geophysical investigations etc. the Committee suggest that the G.S.I. should make a concerted effort for covering the remaining area.

The Committee are unhappy to note that during the Fourth and Fifth Five-Year Plan periods only about 39 per cent of the remaining

18.43 lakhs sq. km. unmapped area is targeted be covered still leaving a balance of 34 per cent of the total area. It will certainly be a sad reflection on the part of the G.S.I's performance if the whole country will not have been mapped geologically even at the end of Fifth Five-Year Plan.

### **Reply of Government**

In the light of the observations of the Estimates Committee, the matter has been reconsidered and the quantum of systematic geological mapping to be done during the 4th Plan period has now been increased from 2,91,025 Sq. Km. to 3,54,500 sq. km. At the end of the 4th Plan period, an area of 5.4 lakhs sq. km (excluding Deccan Trap and alluvial covered areas) would remain unmapped and it would be possible to cover it during the 5th Plan period by suitably increasing the number of geologists engaged on systematic geological mapping. The area covered by alluvial tracts and the Deccan trap need not be mapped on priority basis.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals C.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 3) Para 1.33**

The Committee have been given to understand that the Map Production Division of the Geological Survey of India has not published any geological map of the country during the last four years because of printing difficulties. In view of the fact that mapping is the prime function of the G.S.I. the Committee recommend that the Government should ensure that the publication of geological survey is not delayed on account of printing difficulties.

### **Reply of Government**

The Geological Survey of India first published the Geological map of India in 1877 and subsequently six revised editions apart from plates depicting the geology of certain areas along with the G.S.I. Records and Memoirs, in view of the growing recognition of the utility of geological maps, it has now been decided to set up a press in the G.S.I. to print multicoloured maps and to expedite publication of various types of geological maps.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals C.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 5) Para 1.47**

The Committee feel that the functions of the Geological Survey of India and the State Departments of Mining and Geology should be demarcated clearly and precisely through the Central Programming Board where all interests are represented.

### **Reply of Government**

With a view to demarcate, as far as possible, the respective areas of work between the State Governments and G.S.I for exploration work, the matter was discussed in the 5th meeting of the Central Geological Programming Board held on the 10th September, 1970. It was felt that though some guidelines for the division of work between the G.S.I. and the State Organisations are necessary, watertight divisions of work may not be advisable. Since the G.S.I. is a very large organisation with sufficient experience and expertise built up over a period of years to tackle bigger problems, it was felt that the G.S.I. should normally carry out the following investigations:—

- (a) where the investigations are of a very large magnitude.
- (b) Where sophisticated methods like aerial surveys, geophysical survey etc. are involved.
- (c) Where investigations of deposits cover more than one State.
- (d) Investigations in which foreign assistance is required.
- (e) Any other work which the State Government feels that G.S.I. should undertake.

The areas left out of this purview could be covered by the State Organisations. Moreover, GSI's annual programme pertaining to the States should be discussed in the State Programming Board Meetings.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 7) Para 2.5**

In this connection the Committee would like to invite the attention of the Government to the observations of Public Accounts Committee contained in paras 1.8, 1.9 and 1.10 of their 89th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha). The Committee suggest that the Schedule of charges should be revised and finalised speedily and further action taken to recover the balance of dues from the parties concerned.

The Committee would also urge that the Government should take suitable steps to avoid accumulation of such realizations in future.

### **Reply of Government**

The Schedule of charges has now been finalised and necessary orders have also been issued. Suitable action is being taken for speedy recovery of the balance of dues from the parties concerned and to avoid such accumulation in future.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 8) Para 2.8**

The Committee note that the percentage of expenditure on administration to the total expenditure on the Geological Survey of India which on an average was 11 per cent during the last three years has been brought down to 8 per cent during the current financial year. They, however, hope that the Government will keep a careful watch and will continue its efforts to bring down further the percentage of expenditure on administration.

### **Reply of Government**

The observation of the Committee has been noted. Efforts will continue to further reduce the expenditure on administration.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 9) Para 2.14**

The Committee are of the view that mineral production has a direct bearing on industrial production. Even a small increase in mineral production has an important bearing on the total volume of industrial production and that unless there is a proper development of mineral industries there will be an imbalance in the other sectors of the economy. The Committee feel that the exploration and proving of mineral deposits should be kept well ahead of the current requirements. As the actual investment involved in mineral exploration, is very small in comparison the investment in exploitation, the Committee suggest that the maximum tempo feasible should be kept up in mineral exploration, if rapid progress is to be achieved in the industrial development.

### **Reply of Government**

Plans for exploration and proving of mineral deposits by the Geological Survey of India are mainly guided by the country's requirement of these raw materials in the foreseeable future and priorities that are assigned by agencies like the Planning sub-groups and the Planning Commission. However, the recommendation made by the Committee has been noted for guidance.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 10) Para 2.17**

As mentioned in para 1.51 of the Report of the Central Geological Programming Board meets only for a day in a year. This shows that the question of allocation of priorities to various programmes of mineral and other geological investigations has not been given the serious consideration that it deserved.

The Committee feel that keeping in view the growing industrial requirements of the Fourth Plan and future plans, the investigational priorities in the matter of proving mineral resources particularly those which are in short supply in our country both qualitatively and quantitatively should be revised by the Government.

### **Reply of Government**

The broad priorities for the IV Plan exploratory operations have already been laid down by the various sub-groups set up by the Planning Commission for this purpose. In order to make the work more effective by reviewing the progress from time to time and changing the priorities, etc., it has now been decided to set up five Standing Committees of the Central Geological Programming Board each devoted to a speciality with a view to ensure that GSI's programmes are in consonance with national priorities and are being carried out as per targets fixed. The report of these Committees would be discussed in the Board meeting.

COST has also set up a Standing Committee to go into the details of requirements of various minerals, difficulties and problems of various mineral industries and suggest ways to remove such difficulties. This Committee has set up five sub-groups who will take stock of the present resources position and make suitable suggestions regarding the future pattern of exploration and exploitation

of minerals. The working group of Non-ferrous metals, also set up by COST, is examining in detail the various aspects relating to exploration and exploitation of the non-ferrous metals.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 11) Para 2.25**

The Committee note that the Geological Survey of India have been able to make some contribution to the economy of the country by way of exploring ores like iron, manganese etc. which are essential for many industries in the country and which also earn foreign exchange. In view of the fact that India is currently importing all its phosphate rock requirements at an annual foreign exchange cost estimated to reach 875—100 million by 1971, the Committee are glad that substantial quantities of rock phosphate have been located by G.S.I. The Committee hope that the Government will not become complacent on account of this discovery and will continue its efforts not only to locate more such reserves of rock phosphate but expedite exploitation to make the country self-sufficient in fertilizer minerals which are likely to play a vital role in the agricultural revolution.

### **Reply of Government**

The observations of the Committee have been noted for guidance.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 12) Paras 2.35 & 2.36**

The Committee regret to note that so far no independent assessment and technical scrutiny of the performance of the Geological Survey of India has been made by the Government and that reliance is placed on whatever reports are submitted by the technical officers of the Survey.

It is not yet known when the Committee on Organisation of Scientific Research (COSR), appointed by the Cabinet Secretariat, will submit their report on the scientific work being done in the country. The Committee, therefore, feel that meanwhile it is necessary to have a periodical technical evaluation of the performance of the Geological Survey of India. They recommend that the Government may consider the appointment of an independent technical



team to review and assess the achievements made by the Geological Survey of India covering all its functions with special reference to the field of mineral exploration.

### **Reply of Government**

Government accept the need for scrutiny and technical evaluation of the performance of the G.S.I. C.O.S.R. in their report have confined itself on matters relating to re-organisation of the G.S.I. The question of assessing the performance of G.S.I. periodically by an independent agency is under consideration.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Comments of the Committee**

Final decision on the question of assessing the performance of G.S.I. periodically by an independent agency may be communicated to the Committee.

### **Reommendation (S. No. 14) Para 3.35**

The Committee cannot but conclude that there is considerable time lag between the discovery of a new source of mineral deposit and its commercial exploitation. They, therefore, recommend that in order to reduce the time lag to the minimum extent possible the last phase of exploration by the Geological Survey of India should synchronise with the initial operations of the exploiting agency, so as to maintain continuity of efforts. This is not difficult to achieve as both exploring and exploitation agencies are under the administrative control of the Department of Mines and Metals.

### **Reply of Government**

The observations of the Committee have been noted and it is being examined how best the time gap between exploration of new mineral resources and their exploitation can be reduced to the minimum.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 15) Para 3.41**

The Committee are of the view that the pace of investigations of base metals should be considerably accelerated if the production

of these metals is to keep pace with the tempo of industrialisation in the country.

### Reply of Government

The activities of the Geological Survey of India during the 4th Plan period for exploration of base metal deposits are being intensified. For quicker location of base metals in certain selected parts of the country, an aerial survey unit is being set up in G.S.I. and equipment for this Unit is being purchased under Canadian loan. Besides, Government have recently entered into an agreement with a French Organisation viz. B.R.G.M. to conduct aerial survey of 30,000 sq. km. in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Mysore.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### Recommendation (S. No. 16) Paras 3.58 & 3.59

The Committee are distressed to note that under the 'Operation Hardrock' project there has been a shortfall in the ground follow up drilling inasmuch as against 16,000 metres of drilling envisaged, only 3,000 metres have been drilled. This has been stated to be due to (i) procedural delays in procurement of drills and (ii) limited supply of wire line equipment.

The Committee fail to understand why the procedural difficulties could not be overcome and why supply of wire line equipment could not be increased. The Committee cannot help coming to the conclusion that the projects has not been properly planned. They, however, trust that the procedural hurdles will be removed by streamlining the methods and the process of drilling will be accelerated after more drills are acquired to achieve the targets well in time.

### Reply of Government

In order to accelerate the work of drilling in the ground follow up action of O.H.R. four more drills have now been sanctioned and are expected to be received shortly. Wire line equipment required for the purpose is also being procured under US AID Loan through M/s. Parsons Corporation, contractor for the Project, Operation Hardrock.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 17) Paras 3.60 & 3.61**

The Committee are unhappy to note that practically no drilling has been undertaken in Andhra Pradesh and in Bihar, West Bengal about 175 metres of aero-anomalies areas have been drilled.

The Committee are also unhappy to note that while 144,000 line-kms. (equivalent to 90,395 sq. kms.) aerial geophysical flying as envisaged in the agreement with the United States Agency for International Development has been completed, the follow up work has been insignificant and lagging far behind schedule. There can not be two opinions that "follow up" action is the operative part of the project and unless the schedule is adhered to the anomalies are likely to pile up further. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Government should take all possible steps to ensure that the momentum of the work is not lost in the promising areas.

### **Reply of Government**

In order to ensure that the momentum of the ground follow-up work is not lost in the promising areas covered by aerial geophysical survey under the project, it has now been decided to increase the present strength of field parties by three parties and 6 reconnaissance parties.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971]

### **Recommendation (S. No. 18) Paras 3.66 & 3.67**

The Committee note that the proposed French and USSR programmes are restricted to airborne surveys alone and do not envisage ground follow-up work and drilling which will be conducted by Government of India, organisations.

The Committee also note that as the technical know-how within the country has not been developed to an extent that it would have been possible to undertake such surveys ourselves, it is imperative to take the help of foreign countries who have experts in this field. The Committee, however, stress that Government should take all possible steps to ensure that indigenous know how is developed within the country and dependence on foreign assistance is done away with as early as possible.

### Reply of Government

In order to undertake aerial geophysical survey indigenously, it has already been decided to set up a separate unit in the G.S.I. Necessary equipment required for the purpose is being procured under Canadian Development Loan. Under O.H.R. scheme, two officers received training in data processing in U.S.A. while other Indian Geophysicists and Geologists were associated with flying operations and data evaluation. A specific clause has also been introduced under the French Programmes to ensure that the Indian personnel received training in airborne geophysical instrumentation, data processing etc. Officers who are/will be trained in airborne instrumentative and methods of operation would be able to handle such airborne surveys in future.

It is also being examined by a competent agency, how far the airborne instrumentation developed by NGRI indigenously is sophisticated enough to be used for airborne surveys within the country.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### Recommendation (S. No. 19) Paras 4.3 & 4.4

The Committee note that publication of some pamphlets on the mineral resources of different States of India prepared in several regional languages, under a scheme for making "the layman Mineral Conscious" launched by the Geological Survey of India has been abandoned.

The Committee, however, feel that in view of the utility and importance of the above mentioned scheme Government may examine the desirability of reviving the publication of pamphlets in regional languages in cooperation with the State Governments concerned.

### Reply of Government

The matter was discussed in the 5th meeting of the Geological Programming Board held in September, 1970 and it was decided that the translation of the material into regional languages and subsequent publication of these Books containing information about minerals in a State should be taken up by the State Organisations

as it is primarily for the benefit of the local people. G.S.I. would prepare the material in English and supply the same to the State Governments concerned.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 20) Paras 4.11 and 4.12**

The Committee note with concern that there have been considerable delays in early release of Geological Survey of India publications viz. Records, Memoirs, Bulletin (Series 'A' and 'B') and Indian Minerals etc. and sometime even 2 to 3 years have been taken to release some of these publications.

The Committee are of the view that information obtained by the Geological Survey of India should be freely and fully disseminated to all concerned with the least possible delay. The committee need hardly point out that delayed publication of results of scientific investigation reduce their utility.

### **Reply of Government**

The difficulties in the way of prompt issue of publications are being taken up with the appropriate authorities and all efforts will be made to avoid such delays.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 22) Paras 4.17 and 4.18**

The Committee are glad to note that the Central Library of the Geological Survey of India is the oldest and biggest of such libraries in the East and contains over 2,00,000 volumes of books, periodicals etc. on geology and other allied sciences. The Committee appreciate that the Library caters to the needs of research workers, professors, students from various universities and members of general public.

The Committee would, however, like the Geological Survey of India to ensure that the Library continues to maintain its eminent position.

### Reply of Government

The observations of the Committee have been noted.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### Recommendation (S. No. 23) Para 4.23

The Committee feel that unless expeditious action is taken to get drills, vehicles, geophysical equipment, mining equipment, laboratory equipment, etc. in time, the Department will not be able to realise the targets laid down in the Plan.

### Reply of Government

The additional requirements of men and material proposed under 1st Phase (*i.e.* upto 1971-72) of the 4th Five Year Plan of the Geological Survey of India have already been approved in principle and necessary orders in this regard have been issued. All efforts are being made to get the men and material in position well in time.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### Recommendation (S. No. 26) Para 4.49

The Committee urge that with a view to put an end to the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the matter of recruitment of scientific/technical personnel, there should be advanced planning and the question of setting up an adequate machinery and procedure should be considered and brought into operation before long.

### Reply of Government

The 4th Five Year Plan of the Geological Survey of India was prepared by the Geological Survey of India taking into consideration the recommendation of various sub-groups and the Planning Group on Minerals and also the Department's capacity to expand based on the growth-rate of the past few years. The additional technical personnel for carrying out the programme of work envisaged under the first phase of the 4th Plan (*i.e.* upto 1971-72) has now been approved in principle and necessary orders have been issued. It is hoped that this will improve the situation.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

**Recommendation (S. No. 27) Paras 4.58, 4.59 and 4.60**

The Committee note that at present each supervisory officer in the Geological Survey of India has to supervise, on an average 25 junior officers.

The Committee also note that each supervisory officer can effectively supervise about 15 junior officers and this norm is likely to be achieved either by the end of the Fourth Plan period or during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

The Committee, however, hope that till such time the norm of 1:15 is attained the technical work at various levels will not be allowed to deteriorate in quality.

**Reply of Government**

A Study Group has recently been set up to lay down norms in regard to various aspects of mineral exploration, etc. Pending finalisation of the report of the Study Group, all efforts are being made to ensure that the quality of work does not deteriorate.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

**Recommendation (S. No. 28) Para 4.69**

Keeping in view the nature of the duties of the scientists/technicians working with the Geological Survey of India, the Committee suggest that the feasibility of giving some incentives to such personnel may be examined by the Government.

**Reply of Government**

Incentive to Government employees is ensured under the merit promotion and advance increment scheme. These provisions would be fully utilised to encourage scientists/technicians working with the Geological Survey of India.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

**Recommendation (S. No. 29) Para 4.70**

It may be ensured that suitable chances of promotion are available to the scientific and technical incumbents of Geological Survey of India to attract the right type of persons.

### Reply of Government

The observations of the Committee have been noted.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### Recommendation (S. No. 30) Para 5.16

With a view to ensuring that research and analytical work carried out in the Geological Survey of India laboratories is of practical use and is in keeping with the advances made in technical field in other countries of the world, the Committee would urge the Government to properly develop and modernise existing laboratories of the Geological Survey of India by making necessary arrangements for providing all facilities including proper buildings.

### Reply of Government

Necessary provision for the procurement of equipment, instrument, apparatus, etc. as well as for the construction of suitable buildings required for the purpose has been made in the 4th Plan of the Geological Survey of India. The first phase (*i.e.* upto 1971-72) of the Plan has already been approved and necessary action to implement the programme is being taken.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### Recommendation (S. No. 31) Paras 5.30, 5.31 & 5.32

The Committee note that it has not been possible for the Central Government to persuade various State Governments to allot land free of cost or at a nominal cost to the Geological Survey of India for construction of office buildings and residential quarters for officers/staff for the Regional/Circle offices in the States.

The Committee also note that some of the State Governments have indicated their willingness to acquire private land for the Geological Survey of India offices/buildings under the Land Acquisition rules against payment of suitable compensation to the private owners.

Taking economy into consideration, the Committee suggest that the Government may examine the desirability of housing various



offices of the Geological Survey of India at various State Headquarters and other big cities in their own buildings instead of paying huge rents to private parties.

### **Reply of Government**

We are already taking action to have as far as possible our own buildings for various offices of the Geological Survey of India. Necessary funds have been provided for in the 4th Plan and all efforts will be made to complete the work of construction as early as possible.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Recommendation (S. No. 32) Para 5.36**

The Committee note that the scheme of giving rewards to the public who may give information about the location of mineral ores etc. is in vogue since 1961 but no reward has so far been given under the scheme. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the whole scheme may be got re-examined to find out the reasons for its failure and make it attractive.

### **Reply of Government**

The matter was discussed in the meeting of the Central Geological Programming Board held in September, 1970 and the Central and State agencies were impressed upon to fully utilise the provisions of this scheme.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

## CHAPTER III

### RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

#### **Recommendation (S. No. 4) Para 1.41**

The Committee are of the view that duplication stands in the way of effective and rational utilisation of scientific manpower and adds to the overhead costs of mineral exploration/exploitation. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the functions of the Geological Survey of India *vis-a-vis* the public undertakings engaged in exploitation and development of minerals should be defined clearly so that there is no available overlapping of work.

#### **Reply of Government**

Steps are being taken to set up a separate self-contained unit within the G.S.I. for carrying out detailed mineral exploration work. This Unit would enjoy as much autonomy as possible and would be assisted by a high level Technical Advisory Committee. This Committee would examine and approve all proposals for carrying out detailed mineral exploration work before these are included in the field programme of the GSI. The exploiting agencies would also be closely associated in the progress of these investigations, as far as possible. In this manner, it would be possible to avoid duplication and overlapping, if any, in the functioning of G.S.I. *vis-a-vis* Public Sector Undertakings.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

#### **Recommendation (S. No. 6) Para 1.51**

The Committee feel that meeting once a year does not do any justice to the Resolution of the Government of India. As against the provision of the meetings of the Central Programming Board after six months or more frequently it has so far held only four meetings one each during the last four years. The Committee hope that in future the Board Meetings will be held at least once in six months.

### Reply of Government

The question of holding the meetings of the Central Geological Programming Board twice a year was discussed in the 5th meeting of the Board, held in September, 1970. It was felt that no useful purpose would be served in holding the meetings twice a year since a large body like the Board cannot effectively discuss GSI's programme in detail. Instead it was decided to set up the following five Standing Committees to examine GSI's exploration programmes and their Field performance so as to enable the Board to take effective decisions:—

- (1) Non-ferrous minerals.
- (2) Minerals connected with development of iron ore and steel industry.
- (3) Coal.
- (4) Other minerals including fertilizer minerals.
- (5) Ground water.

These Standing Committees, it is felt, would be able to do sufficient ground work and pin-point the issues on which Board can take clear and concrete decisions.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

#### Recommendation (S. No. 13) Paras 3.19, 3.20 & 3.21

The Committee note that the Geological Survey of India has been able to obtain a general idea about the distribution of different mineral deposits within the country and has already proved more than 240 million tonnes of low grade copper ore, about 30 million tonnes of lead zinc ore and more than 11 million tonnes of lead ore in various parts of Bihar, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The Committee, however, regret to note that although existence of mineral deposits in the country was known quite early, the number of mines developed since attainment of independence is very few. The Committee are unhappy to note that the domestic production of copper and lead has remained static at around 9,000 tonnes and 3,000 tonnes a year respectively during the last decade. This not only reflects lack of interest and absence of coordination between exploring and exploiting agencies but tells upon the meagre foreign

exchange resources of the country in as much as the import of non-ferrous metals during 1966-67 and 1967-68 has cost the nation Rs. 85.5 crores and Rs. 130.60 crores respectively.

The Committee have been apprised that with the necessary incentives and funds it is expected that the current shortage in copper, zinc and lead may be appreciably reduced by the Fifth Plan period. The Committee are of the view that with satisfactory availability position of necessary reserves, particularly of copper ore, Government should have undertaken crash programme much earlier to reduce appreciably imports of non-ferrous metals.

The Committee feel that in view of strides that are made in the industrial growth of the country the wide gaps existing between demand and supply of non-ferrous metals will go on becoming wider and wider in coming years. Unless concerted efforts are made now it may not be possible to fill the gaps with the abruptly increasing demands in future.

### Reply of Government

The delay in development of base metals in the country was largely due to acute shortage of trained and experienced personnel in non-ferrous metallurgy and underground metalliferous mining. Recently steps as indicated below have been taken by the Hindustan Copper Ltd. to overcome the shortage of trained technical personnel in the field of metalliferous mining and metallurgy:—

- (1) Mining and Metallurgical engineers are being sent on training in similar operations abroad.
- (2) The H.C.L. is acquiring an international expert for mine design engineering work at Khetri Copper Project. This will also help training of project engineers who will be associated with the expert from initial stages.

Government have also taken following steps to increase the production of Base metals—viz. copper, lead and zinc:—

**Zinc.**—The present requirement of zinc metal is estimated at 1.06 lakh tonnes which is expected to go up to 1.42 lakhs tonnes per annum by the end of 4th Plan. In order to meet the demand during the Fourth Plan, it is proposed (i) to increase the capacity of both the existing smelters at Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Alwaye (Kerala) from 38000 to 76000 tonnes per annum; and (ii) to set up a new 30,000 tonnes per annum Zinc smelter at Vizag. in the Public Sector. H.Z.L. is also taking steps to complete the exploration work expedi-

tiously and draw up projects reports for Dariba-Rajpura and Ambamata-Deri deposits of lead and zinc.

*Lead.*—The present demand for this metal is estimated to be 66,600 tonnes which is expected to go up to 97,400 tonnes by 1973-74. In order to cope up with the demand the only lead smelter in the country at Tundoo (Bihar) is proposed to be expanded/modernised to increase its present production. A technical team is studying the feasibility of expansion/modernisation of this smelter. The HCL have also drawn up a scheme for the upper level development of the Bandalamottu lead deposits as a first phase of the development of the copper-lead deposits at Agnigundala (A.P.). It will produce 7,7000 tonnes of lead metal per year. Steps are also being taken to develop the Sargepalli lead deposit in Orissa State.

*Copper.*—The present requirements of copper are estimated at 93,400 tonnes which is expected to go up to 1,24,000 tonnes per annum by the end of 4th Plan. To meet the increased demand of copper, Hindustan Copper Ltd. a public sector undertaking are setting up a copper smelter at Khetri in Rajasthan with a capacity of 31,000 tonnes per annum based on indigenous ores. They are also preparing plans to develop copper resources at Rakha (Bihar), Agnigundala (A.P.) and Dariba (Rajasthan). Action for the development of some small copper deposits like the Chitaldurga Copper Deposit in Mysore State has also been initiated. The Indian Copper Corporation, in the private sector, are expanding their smelter capacity from 9,600 to 16,500 tonnes per annum. The Geological Survey of India have carried out intensive exploration for copper deposits, particularly in Malanjkhand in Madhya Pradesh and Pular Parsori in Maharashtra.

The targets for increased production of base metals *viz.* Copper, Lead and Zinc, have been worked out keeping in view the estimated demand by the end of 4th Plan and the resources available for development of these metals.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE**

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## CHAPTER V

### RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

#### **Recommendation (S. No. 21)-Paras 4.13 and 4.14**

The Committee hope that the delegation of powers in November, 1968 to the Director General, Geological Survey of India to farm out printing jobs to private presses will help the Department in clearing the past arrears and become current.

The Committee have also been apprised that the Department has not been able to make full use of these powers on account of the limitations enumerated in para 4.10. The Committee, therefore, would like Government to immediately look into these difficulties and take suitable remedial measures.

#### **Reply of Government**

The matter is being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries and necessary orders will be issued as soon as the final decision is arrived at.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

#### **Comments of the Committee**

Final decision taken in the matter may be communicated to the Committee.

#### **Recommendation (S. No. 24) Paras 4.34, 4.35 and 4.36**

The Committee have been apprised that the present arrangement of centralisation of procurement of scientific equipment through the Director General of Supplies and Disposals sometimes stands in the way of timely procurement of equipment this resulting in delay in execution of priority investigations.

The Committee note that stores valued less than Rs. 25,000 can be procured departmentally observing the approved purchase procedure, and that "good deal can be done within the existing provisions which is not done".

The Committee feel that within the ceiling limit of Rs. 25,000 and with sufficient foresight and anticipation placing indents with the D.G.S. & D. much in advance of the requirements of various types of stores and equipment, bottle-neck in respect of timely procurement of such items can be removed to a great extent. However, under exceptional circumstances and in cases of emergencies and where the Director General of Supply and Disposals has specifically expressed his inability to procure certain types of stores within the stipulated time, the Government may examine the desirability of suitably raising the limit subject to the condition that the maximum quantity to be purchased should be just sufficient to meet the emergency or to cover the requirement for the exact period during which supply from D.G.S. & D is not likely to come.

### **Reply of Government**

The matter is being examined in consultation with the appropriate authorities.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

### **Comments of the Committee**

Final decision taken in the matter may be communicated to the Committee.

### **Recommendation (S. No. 25) Paras 4.47 and 4.48**

The Committee are constrained to note that due to non-availability of personnel in time not only some activities of the Geological Survey have been given lower priorities but the Department has not been able to give proper and full attention to its primary function of mapping particularly in Himalayas. The Committee are surprised that although requisite number of qualified personnel is available in the country, the procedural difficulties have been allowed to stand in the way of early recruitment of such personnel.

The Committee, therefore, suggest that Government should consider ways and means of eliminating procedural delays in the matter of recruitment of requisite number of scientific|technical personnel with necessary qualifications.



**Reply of Government**

The question of eliminating procedural delays in the matter of recruitment of scientific and technical personnel is under the active consideration of the Government.

[Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals & Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/1/70-MI, dated the 14th April, 1971].

**Comments of the Committee**

Final decision taken in the matter may be communicated to the Committee.

KAMAL NATH TEWARI,  
*Chairman,*  
*Estimates Committee.*

NEW DELHI;  
*August 17, 1971*  

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*.Sravana 26, 1893 (S).*

APPENDIX

[Vide Introduction to Report]

*Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations in the 126th Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha)*

1. Total No. of recommendations . . . . .	32
2. Recommendations which have been accepted by Government ( <i>vide</i> recommendations Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 included in Chapter II).	
Number . . . . .	26
Percentage to total . . . . .	81.25%
3. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply ( <i>vide</i> recommendations Nos. 4, 6 and 13 included in Chapter III)	
Number . . . . .	3
Percentage to total . . . . .	9.37%
4. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited ( <i>vide</i> recommendations Nos. 21, 24 and 25 included in Chapter V)	
Number . . . . .	3
Percentage to total . . . . .	9.37%