

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1971-72)

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

TWELFTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES

[Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Deptt. of Mines & Metals)—Indian Bureau of Mines].



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

September, 1971/Bhadra, 1893 (Saka)

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(1971-72)

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12. Shri Krishnarao Thakur
13. Shri N. Tombi Singh
14. Shri N. P. Yadav

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twelfth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Twenty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Deptt. of Mines and Metals)—Indian Bureau of Mines.

2. The Hundred and Twenty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on the 29th April, 1970. Replies indicating action taken on the various recommendations contained in the Report were forwarded by Government on the 19th April, 1971, 7th May, 1971 and 5th July, 1971. The Study Group 'F' of the Estimates Committee considered the replies received from the Ministry on the 10th August, 1971. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 18th August, 1971.

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

Chapter I—Report

Chapter II—Recommendations which have been accepted by Government.

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

Chapter IV—Recommendations in respect of which replies have not been accepted by the Committee.

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

An analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Twenty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in the

Appendix to this Report. It would be observed therefrom that out of 32 recommendations made in the said Report, 28 recommendations i.e. about 87 per cent have been accepted by Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue 3 recommendations i.e. about 9 per cent in view of Government's reply. Final reply of Government to only one recommendation i.e. about 3 per cent has not yet been furnished to the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
1st September, 1971.
10th Bhadra, 1893 (S)

KAMAL NATH TEWARI,
Chairman,
Estimate Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their 127th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Department of Mines and Metals)—Indian Bureau of Mines have been replied to by Government generally to their satisfaction.

The Committee desire that further information required by them on the progress made in implementation of some of their recommendations may be furnished to the Committee.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para 1.17)

The Committee note that the functions of the Indian Bureau of Mines, as they now stand, have been evolved through periodic reviews. The Committee note in particular the recommendations made by the Committee on Reorganisation of the Indian Bureau of Mines 1966-67 and feel that with the implementation of the major recommendations of that Committee the activities of the Bureau have been reoriented in the right direction.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Paras 1.18, 1.19)

The Committee also note that with a view to eliminate overlapping in the functions of the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines, the divisions which had been appended to the latter in 1953 were transferred back to the former in 1966.

The Committee regret to note that it required Government 13 years to realise the existence of overlapping of functions between the two organisations.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Paras 1.24, 1.25, 1.26)

The Committee note that the subject of creation of a new organisation responsible for carrying out drilling and exploratory mining for minerals other than atomic minerals, oil and gas is under consideration of Government.

The note prepared in Planning Commission lays stress on increasing the tempo of exploration. The representative of the Ministry has, however, stated that the two main difficulties being felt with the existing arrangement are the cost of drilling and the point at which the exploring agency should stop drilling and pass on the job to the exploiting agency. The Committee do not think that these difficulties could be solved simply by creating a new agency. The erstwhile Exploratory Wing of the Indian Bureau of Mines was transferred back to Geological Survey of India in 1966 only to avoid duplication. In case, however, it is desired to divest the Geological Survey of India of its drilling functions, the Committee fear that such a step would reduce Geological Survey of India to a mere academic institution. It need hardly be pointed out that a Government owned drilling company recommended by the Committee on Reorganisation was only as an interim measure pending development of private-owned drilling agencies.

The Committee, therefore, are of the opinion that the best course for the Government would be to constitute an efficient, cost conscious and economically viable unit within the Geological Survey of India who could take up drilling work in a businesslike manner.

Reply of Government

The question whether, detailed exploration work including drilling and exploratory mining should be taken away from the Geological Survey of India and entrusted to a separate organisation has been under consideration of Government. At a meeting held on 8th April, 1970, it has decided that a separate and self-contained unit may be created within the Geological Survey of India for carrying out detailed mineral exploration work. This unit is to 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 to be taken by the Unit. Normally the investigations assigned to the Unit would be carried out at the instance of exploiting agencies interested in the exploitation of the deposit. The exploiting agency would also be closely associated with the progress of these investigations.

It has been proposed that the Technical Advisory Committee would consist of:—

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (1) Secretary or Joint Secretary | } | Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and
Mines & Metals (Department of Mines and
Metals). |
| (2) Chief Technical Adviser | | |
| (3) Deputy Financial Adviser | | |
| (4) Director General, Geological Survey of India. | | |
| (5) Deputy Director General, in-charge of the Unit in the Geological Survey of India. | | |

Since the immediate and abrupt introduction of large scale changes might adversely affect the tempo of operation, it is proposed that initially the capacity of the Unit within the Geological Survey of India will be small and restricted to the investigations currently being taken up at the behest of the exploiting agencies. The scope of work and strength of Unit can be gradually enlarged, based on the needs specified by the exploiting agencies in future.

A Deputy Director General or Director, depending on the scope of activities, would head the Unit. Suitable number of Geologists and drilling personnel would be allotted to undertake the work envisaged. A Financial Adviser and Cost Accounts Officer would assist the Unit.

Setting up of a small unit to cater to the existing workload and gradual expansion of the Unit to undertake the detailed exploration work on deposits in which exploiting agencies show definite interest will be in accordance with the recommendation of the Estimates Committee to constitute an efficient cost conscious and economically viable unit within the Geological Survey of India for undertaking detailed mineral exploration.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Paras 2.12, 2.13 & 2.14)

The Committee note that while in many cases the reasons for filling up these posts are stated to be beyond the purview of the Department of Mines and Metals, in some cases there has been considerable delay in the Department itself. For instance, the two posts of the Controller of Mines fell vacant on 25.9.68 and 2.1.69 and reference to the Union Public Service Commission was made only on 9.10.69. Similarly the time taken to fill up the two posts of Assistant Controller of Mines which fell vacant on 1.1.66 and 23.8.67 cannot be attributed wholly to an outside agency as the references in these cases were made to Union Public Service Commission on 19.11.68 and 20-12-68 only.

The Committee also note that no steps appear to have been taken to fill up a number of posts of the Deputy Controller of Mines. The Committee consider such delays as objectionable. Apart from generating frustration among the aspiring juniors the delay must have impeded the work of the Bureau to a great extent.

The Committee, therefore, urge that immediate steps should be taken to fill up the large number of posts lying vacant at the mo-

ment. The Committee would suggest that time limit should be fixed for making reference to fill up a vacancy where a reference has to be made to the Union Public Service Commission or the Central Surplus Cell. In any case a post should not be allowed to remain vacant beyond three months where the Departmental Promotion Committee has to take a decision.

Reply of Government

There has been procedural delay in filling up certain posts in the past, part of which is unavoidable. For example according to the recruitment rules, the posts of Controller of Mines are required to be filled by promotion failing which by direct recruitment. The first method of filling the posts through the Departmental Promotion Committee has to be gone through before Union Public Service Commission are requested to make direct recruitment to these posts. This obviously causes considerable delay between the date of occurrence of the vacancy and the date on which requisition is sent to the Union Public Service Commission. However, steps have already been taken to fill up the posts as early as possible, in certain cases even by *ad hoc* appointments, where necessary, and also keep panels of selected persons ready from which the posts could be filled expeditiously.

2. It has been decided that the Indian Bureau of Mines should refer the matter to the Ministry, where necessary, within a month from the date of occurrence of the vacancy for appointment thereto whether by direct recruitment or by Departmental Promotion and also to ensure that no posts where the Departmental Promotion Committee has to take a decision is allowed to remain vacant beyond three months. The present position is that all posts of Controller of Mines and Deputy Controller of Mines have been filled now.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para 2.15)

The Committee also note that a number of posts were lying vacant in the Bureau as clearance from the Central Surplus Cell could not be received even where a referenc had been made some two years ago. As the Indian Bureau of Mines is a technical Organisation, actual implementation of various projects can be expected only when the sanction to the staff is timely and the staff sanctioned is in position. The Committee, therefore, urge that the matter of clearance from the

Central Cell should be taken up at a high level and a workable solution arrived at.

Reply of Government

The present position with regard to the clearance from the Central Surplus Cell is satisfactory. Every effort will be made to get the clearance at the earliest in future.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971].

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para 2.21)

The Committee are of the view that the non-technical staff in a technical organisation should be kept to the barest minimum in the interest of efficiency. They, therefore, suggest that while sanctioning posts in future for Indian Bureau of Mines, the Government should ensure that non-technical staff is recruited only when it is absolutely necessary.

Reply of Government

The number of non-technical staff in the Department has been maintained at the level which is considered absolutely essential.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971].

Recommendation (Serial No. 8 Paras 2.37, 2.38, 2.39 and 2.40)

The Committee note that emphasis has heretofore been laid on the coal mining methods and practices in India on account of the larger employment opportunities it offers to the Indian mining engineers. Although 1840 graduate mining engineers were turned out during 1960 to 1968, only about 200 were actually employed in all the metalliferous mines put together. The Committee also note that the intake capacity of the training institutions in India is adequate as about 3025 graduate mining engineers and diploma-holders have received training in various coal and metalliferous mines of the country since 1961-62.

The Committee are, however, surprised that the Department of Mines and Metals have no details regarding the number of persons trained under Colombo Plan etc. The Department of Mines and Metals could not even furnish information to the Committee regarding arrangements made by the Public Sector Corporations like

National Coal Development Corporations or Hindustan Steel Ltd. under their own schemes.

The Committee feel that in execution of training programme of mining engineers, particularly where people are sent abroad for advanced and specialised training, there should be proper planning by the Central Government.

The Committee feel that it is high time to increase and improve training facilities in metalliferous mines in view of the increasing activities in this field.

Reply of Government

Particulars of the officers who were working in Mines and Metals Department/organisations under the administrative control of the Department of Mines and Metals and were sent abroad for training under the Colombo Plan, etc., during the last 10 years are given in the attached Statement. (Not printed).

As a result of the attention drawn by the Estimate Committee, Government are taking necessary action to rationalise and improve the existing training arrangements. We have called for and received full information on the areas of technology where training in other countries would be of use. A detailed training scheme is being worked out.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Comments of the Committee

A copy of the training scheme when finalised may be furnished to the Committee for information

Recommendation (Serial No. 9, Paras 2.41 & 2.42)

The Committee note that adequate facilities do not exist in the country in some spheres of mining activity, e.g. project evaluation, design of mines, high speed shaft sinking and pre-mining development work, large concentrated outputs from underground work, training in design and installation of mineral beneficiation plant. There are also no arrangements for acquiring practical training in many mining methods such as various caving systems, resuing and the mining of wide ore-bodies and very thin-ore bodies. The Committee, therefore, urge that early arrangements should be

made in a phased and planned manner for training of technical personnel in foreign countries. In this matter full advantage should be taken of the facilities available under various bilateral training programmes and schemes like Colombo Plan, Technical Cooperation Mission and USAID Plan etc.

The Committee are of the view that full advantage should also be taken of collaboration arrangements to train our engineers etc. They, therefore, suggest that this should be done by invariably attaching a suitable number of trainees to consulting firms—Indian or foreign who are asked to execute any specific project in India so that technical know-how is built up in India systematically and progressively.

Reply of Government

Government are taking steps to effectively utilise the existing opportunities under bilateral arrangements etc. with a view to build up a suitable cadre of technical experts in this field. The suggestion offered in the report will be borne in mind while taking further action in this matter.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 10, Para 2.43)

In this connection the Committee would like to draw attention to the suggestion made by the Committee on Reorganisation that a mechanism should be evolved whereby the services of such personnel as have acquired specialised and advanced training in any specific fields can be made available to all the wings of the metal mining industry irrespective of the corporation or organisation they may happen to belong.

Reply of Government

Effort to evolve a suitable mechanism by which the desired result as per this recommendation could be achieved would be made in consultation with the Corporation and Organisations concerned.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
7th May, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11, Para 2.44)

The Committee suggest that in case there are no opportunities of training in any of the specific fields referred to above within the country Government should make necessary arrangements for send-

ing the technically qualified personnel to foreign countries for training, so that mining engineers in India are not deprived of the latest technological developments in metalliferous mining in the world.

Reply of Government

Necessary steps in this direction are being taken in the country for improving and rationalising our existing training facilities.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12, Para 2.50)

The Committee note the proposals put forth for the reorganisation of the Indian Bureau of Mines which are based on the recommendations of the Committee on Reorganisation of the Indian Bureau of Mines. The Committee hope that the Government will give due consideration to the proposals made for the reorganisation of the Indian Bureau of Mines and will ensure that the reported exodus of experienced personnel from the Bureau is stopped as early as possible. The Committee also hope that all efforts will be made to find suitable incumbents for technical posts.

Reply of Government

Government would like to assure that necessary action will be taken in the direction suggested by the Committee.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 13, Para 2.57)

The Committee are of the view that none of the procedural bottlenecks in the recruitment of personnel mentioned by the Ministry is of a character which could not have been overcome by now. Such advance action was all the more necessary in the case of the Indian Bureau of Mines where sophisticated equipment will have to be procured and highly technical and experienced personnel recruited.

Reply of Government

Government like to assure that all efforts will be made to avoid all procedural bottlenecks and to ensure advance action where necessary.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 14, Para 2.59)

The Committee are glad to note that the Ministry propose to authorise the Controller, Indian Bureau of Mines to initiate action for recruitment of personnel and place orders for equipment during the Fourth Plan period.

Reply of Government

This has been done.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15, Para 2.60)

The Committee hope that the Ministry have already prepared a perspective plan for recruitment of personnel and purchase of equipment etc. They, however, suggest that Government should ensure that there is no over capitalisation and arrangements are made for proper maintenance and servicing of machinery and equipment and proper utilisation thereof.

Reply of Government

Government like to assure that this will be done.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 16, Para 3.13)

The Committee would like to invite attention to their observations on this aspect *viz.* gaps between the discoveries of mineral resources and their exploitation made in para 3.35 of their Hundred and Twenty-sixth Report. The Committee feel that more concerted efforts will have to be made to fill the gaps between the time of exploration and that of exploitation, in the case of scarce metals if the country is to be relieved of the drain on foreign exchange. This can be achieved through advanced planning and more realistic feasibility reports before the decisions to launch production are taken and by introduction of modern mining techniques wherever possible and economically justified.

Reply of Government

Regarding the recommendations for reducing the gap between the discoveries of mineral deposits and their exploitation, it may be stated that the Geological Survey of India is primarily concerned

with discoveries and exploration. Concerted efforts are being made to increase the tempo of investigations for locating and exploring new mineral deposits. Airborne Surveys, which are to be carried out by the Geological Survey of India and the Airborne Mineral Survey and Exploration, will help in covering large areas expeditiously and locating possible sites for ground surveys. During the 4th Plan period the Geological Survey of India proposes to carry out 502 Geologist years of work, 2,13,560 metres of drilling, 45,150 metres of exploratory mining for detailed mineral assessment.

As soon as a prospect warrants detailed exploration, the Geological Survey of India intimates the Government nominating the exploiting agencies who may be interested to take up the deposit for exploitation so that there is a smooth take over by the exploiting agencies based on a detailed exploration programme drawn up in consultation with the exploiting agencies. This should substantially reduce the gap between the exploration programme and subsequent exploitation.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17, Paras 3.18 and 3.19)

The Committee note that there is no particular cell in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals where perspective planning could be done from exploration to exploitation keeping the country's future requirements in view. Nor is there any agency which could see that the time-lag between the location and exploitation stages could be abridged. The Committee feel that the present arrangements of constituting planning groups under the auspices of the Planning Commission on the eve of formulation of a Five Year Plan though useful for short term needs are not at all adequate from the point of view of long term needs.

The Committee would, therefore, suggest that a permanent agency or Cell should be created in the Ministry which would not only watch the long term needs of the country for a systematic and progressive development of its resources but could also provide a link between the exploration and exploitation stages. This agency can also be utilised by Government for solutions of specific problems as and when they arise.

Reply of Government

A Technical Cell has since been set up in the Ministry and the Government will duly consider the question of expanding its functions so as to cover this activity.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
7th May, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 18, Paras 3.34, 3.35, 3.36 and 3.37)

The Committee note that a large number of mineral bearing areas have been reserved in pursuance of the Industrial Policy Resolution. The Committee also note that Expert Committees were appointed in 1957-58 in States to facilitate selection of suitable deposits of iron and manganese ores for State exploitation.

In this connection, the Committee note that this matter was discussed in the meeting of the Mineral Advisory Board held at Bangalore in May, 1963, and the Board recommended that the Government might review the position in consultation with the State Governments and public sector undertakings.

The Committee note the policy followed by Government in the matter of reservation of mineral bearing areas as indicated in para 3.33.

The Committee feel that this matter needs to be more thoroughly examined keeping upper-most the national interest and preservation of mineral wealth and recommend that Government should after careful consideration draw up a firm policy so far as the attitude on reserved and non-reserved areas is concerned and ensure that the production of minerals increases appreciably and the country becomes self-sufficient in those minerals which are in short supply and which are being imported at present.

Reply of Government

With a view to draw up a firm policy on the question of reservation of mineral bearing areas for exploitation by public undertakings, the matter was considered at the 5th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Mineral Advisory Board held at New Delhi on 30th May, 1970. It was decided in the meeting that the matter may be referred to 'Sub-Committee' headed by the Controller, Indian Bureau of Mines to examine the matter separately and recommend a uniform policy to be followed by the States. The report of the Sub-Committee is still awaited. A final decision in the matter will be taken after consideration of the report of Sub-Committee.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be apprised in due course of the final decision taken in the matter.

Recommendation (Serial No. 19, Para 4.18)

The Committee are surprised to note that no consultancy service worth the name has been set up so far. In spite of the fact that this matter was one of the terms of reference of the Committee on the Reorganisation of the Indian Bureau of Mines and that, that Committee felt that there was unquestionably wide and genuine need in the country of a strong and competent Consultancy Division nothing tangible has been achieved so far. The facilities of consultancy service introduced by Government towards the beginning of 1969 appear to have made hardly any impact on the mining industry. The only inference that Committee can draw from this is that the consultancy service introduced in 1969 is only a nominal service and not a real service which is the need of the industry. In view of the fact that the mining industries are unanimous in their demand for an effective consultancy service, the Committee see no reason why the Indian Bureau of Mines should not be able to meet the requirement. The Committee expect the Indian Bureau of Mines to treat this as an opportunity and challenge to establish its consultancy services and render meaningful service to the industry at an economic cost.

Reply of Government

The Government also feel that a strong and competent Consultancy Division is needed for the country. However, in view of the uncertain clientele and also the fact that large public sector mining corporations have their own planning and development cells, the Indian Bureau of Mines conceived the idea of making a beginning in a small way only to cater to the needs of large number of small mine owners. The Bureau brought to the notice of all important mineowners and mining associations the types of jobs which can be taken up right now without waiting for development of a full-fledged division for all types of jobs.

Since the Estimates Committee's examination of the estimates of the Bureau the mining industry have been further informed about the services available in the Indian Bureau of Mines and several queries have been received from mineowners and mining associations covering about 400—500 mines. It, therefore, appears that the scheme has caught the attention of the prospective clients and that the mining industry would like to take advantage of these services.

The consultancy service will be developed and strengthened in the Bureau keeping in view the need of the mining industry.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20, para 4.23)

The Committee note that the small mines collectively represent the important sector for production. The Committee suggest that Government should encourage small mine owners to form cooperatives so that financial assistance may become available to them for purchase of different types of mining machinery as and when required by them on no loss no profit or on hire-purchase basis.

Reply of Government

It would be desirable to encourage small mine owners to form cooperatives if this is practically feasible. For this purpose, compact and contiguous areas of mineralisation would be ideal. However, difference in the period of lease, quality and quantity of ore available, extent of development necessary and cost of production etc. are factors which would rather inhibit the formation of cooperatives. Though experience gained in this respect shows that the success of the proposal cannot be taken for granted, efforts would be made to encourage cooperative ventures in this field.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 22, Para 4.40)

The Committee regret to note that although the necessity for research and commercial tests in pilot plant scale for mineral beneficiation has been felt for long and the Government have appointed several committees to evaluate the need in this direction, nothing concrete and tangible has been achieved so far. The Committee suggest that planned and expeditious action may be taken in the matter in consultation with the mining industry.

Reply of Government

Having felt the need for research on beneficiation of minerals, the Indian Bureau of Mines set up its laboratory in 1954 at Delhi. The pilot plant was set up at Nagpur in 1960 after the transfer of the headquarters of the Indian Bureau of Mines from Delhi to Nagpur. Since beneficiation research is a continuing process, the laboratory

and pilot plant of the Bureau were expanded progressively with additional equipment and an additional pilot plant equipment worth about Rs. 1.68 lakhs was procured during 1961—66, consisting mainly of units for conveying, classifying, tabling wet magnetic separation and asbestos grading. During 1966—70 further pilot plant equipments worth about Rs. 60,000/- were procured which included attritioners, hydrocyclone, sand pumps etc. Recently arrangements have been made for conducting pilot plant tests on rock phosphates, a facility which was hitherto not available. Besides, the capacity of the flotation circuit in the pilot plant is being augmented and for this purpose an order for equipment worth Rs. 70,000/- has already been placed with a firm. The Fourth Five Year Plan proposal of the Bureau envisaged additional new facilities for conducting various pilot plant tests. This has been done with a view to provide for better beneficiation facilities necessary for the rapidly growing mineral industry of the country.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 23, Para 4.44)

The Committee hope that Government will take decision in the matter of setting up of a mobile pilot plant for conducting on-the-spot tests and the two regional laboratories at Ajmer and Bangalore as expeditiously as possible in consultation with the Industry.

Reply of Government

With reference to 4th Five Year Plan of the Indian Bureau of Mines sanction of the Government has since been conveyed to the Indian Bureau of Mines for procurement (during the 1970-71) of a Pilot Plant, at a cost not exceeding Rs. 6.61 lakhs. This is a second unit in the Bureau and this unit will be stationed at Ajmer. It has been decided to obtain a Mobile Pilot Plant under UNDP. The position will be reviewed during mid-term appraisal of the Plan.

The setting up of regional laboratories at Ajmer and Bangalore has been accepted. The Controller of Indian Bureau of Mines has been requested to proceed with the recruitment of officers and staff and procurement of equipment

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013|2|70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24, Para 4.48)

The Committee note that the allocations for beneficiation research may have to be brought down from those proposed during the Fourth Plan in view of the overall reduction in allocation from Rs. 46 crores to Rs. 31 crores on Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines. They suggest that the whole matter should be examined with a view to see that the beneficiation research is not adversely affected.

Reply of Government

It is pointed out that the overall allocation for the 4th Five Year Plan to Geological Survey of India, Airborne Mineral Survey and Exploration and Indian Bureau of Mines has been revised (brought down) from Rs. 46 crores to Rs. 40 crores (and not Rs. 31 crores as mentioned in the recommendation). The allocation to the Indian Bureau of Mines is Rs. 1.5 crores, out of which the expenditure under Ore-dressing Division has been estimated at Rs. 20.88 lakhs and Rs. 20.79 lakhs for Phase I (1969—72) and Phase II (1972—74) respectively. It will be ensured that the tempo of ore beneficiation research will be maintained.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013|2|70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971].

Further information called for by the Committee

During the evidence given before the Estimates Committee Shri T. N. Lakshminarayanan, Joint Secretary of the erstwhile Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines & Metals had stated as follows:—

“As against 13 or 14 ore samples which could be beneficiated, their proposal to the Planning Commission is to step it up to 30 samples annually. That was on the basis of a budget of Rs. 46 crores for GSI and IBM but the Planning Commission is agreeable to allot only Rs. 31 crores.”

The Ministry had not changed the amount of Rs. 31 crores when the Draft Report was forwarded to them for factual verification. The reasons for which the figure of 31 crores is now sought to be changed to 40 crores may please be stated.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5|16|(2)|ECII|70, dated the 31st May, 1971]

Reply of Government

The allocation for the Fourth Plan of the Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines was increased to Rs. 40 crores by the Planning Commission after evidence given before the Estimates Committee on 29th January, 1970.

[Department of Mines O.M. No. G-25013|2|70-M2, dated the 19th July, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25, Para 4.52)

The Committee regret to note that no regular review has been made so far of the researches made by the Indian Bureau of Mines inspite of the observations of the Committee on Reorganisation. The Committee are confident that if a review of the research had been made in proper manner there would have been no room for criticism and the Committee on Reorganisation of Indian Bureau of Mines would not have been compelled to observe that "at the moment activities of the Ore Dressing Division lack dynamism and there is no indication whatsoever of any progress or development". The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should ensure that the research carried out in the Ore Dressing Division of Bureau is evaluated regularly and periodically by a team of experts who are not on the staff of the Geological Survey of India or Indian Bureau of Mines so that research services keep pace with the development of the industry and needs of the economy of the country.

Reply of Government

Necessary steps will be taken to periodically evaluate the work done by the Ore Dressing Division of Indian Bureau of Mines.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013|2|70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26, Para 4.58)

The Committee feel that research on samples from the same deposit and even on identical ore samples without proper coordination may lead to waste of the public funds which the country cannot afford. They, therefore, suggest that there should be proper coordination between the Indian Bureau of Mines, National Metallurgical Laboratory and other laboratories.

Reply of Government

Government would examine all aspects of the matter with a view to ensure that there is proper coordination between Indian Bureau of Mines and N.M.L. and other laboratories.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be apprised in due course of the results of the examination carried out with a view to achieve coordination.

Recommendation (Serial No. 27, Para 5.16)

The Committee agree with the observations of the Committee on Reorganisation of Indian Bureau of Mines that by merely filling in set forms, and by attempting to reach a minimum target number of inspections every year officers of Indian Bureau of Mines would not be rendering the service expected of them, nor would the Bureau acquire essential knowledge for the conservation of the country's mineral wealth. The Committee suggest that the Indian Bureau of Mines should cease to dissipate its efforts on investigations of minerals which are currently of minor significance and should instead, concentrate on those minerals particularly non-ferrous metals which are of real importance from the country's point of view.

Reply of Government

The Indian Bureau of Mines in its programme of special investigations and regional development studies already accord priority to important minerals. The Estimates Committee has even acknowledged in para 1.17 that "activities of the Bureau have been reoriented in the right direction". However to some extent it would be necessary to inspect other mines also for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1968.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 29, Paras 5.28 and 5.29)

The Committee regret to note the delays in the publication of the statistical data collected by the Indian Bureau of Mines from various

sources. The Committee also note that the most important factor in these delays is the excessive time taken in the printing of the Minerals Year Book in the Government of India Press, Nasik.

The Committee, however, understand that arrangements are being made to procure a copy of the returns submitted to the D.G.T.D. with a view to avoid delays being caused in the receipt of information from non-statutory sources, and that a common press is proposed to be installed for the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines. As the importance of statistical information in the formulation of national mineral policies is self-evident, the Committee suggest that for this purpose, statistical information should be both reliable and comprehensive and all publications relating to the mineral statistic should be brought out in time and with expedition.

Reply of Government

The Publication of statistical data is made through the "Monthly Bulletin on Mineral Statistics and Information" and "Indian Minerals Year Book". The monthly bulletin is published within 4 months. As the monthly returns from mines are received by the end of the following month and other information|returns from various sources, mainly non-statutory, are received even later, it is possible to get the manuscript ready by the 3rd month only, and then rest of the time is taken by the "Press" to print the 100 page bulletin.

As regards the Indian Minerals Year Book, the returns under statutory provision are received almost in full by the month of June|July of the following year. Information from other sources are received much later. However, efforts are being made to reduce the delay and effect a satisfactory coverage by August or September. Thereafter the compilation, drafting, fair typing, editing etc. take about 5 months for nearly 2,500 typed pages. This will mean that the manuscript can be ready at the end of 12-13 months following the year to which the information relates.

After the manuscript is ready it depends on the press to expedite the printing. Experience shows that the printing time, as per existing arrangement, may be between one year and two and a half years. Enquiries with private Presses have revealed that the printing period may be 4 to 10 months. It is felt that 6, 7 months may be necessary, because 4 months appear to be too optimistic.

The total period would therefore become 18-19 months after the end of the year to which the matter relates. This appears to be the minimum period in which the Minerals Year Book may be published. It is worthwhile to mention that this period will compare well with that of U.S. Bureau of Mines publication which comes out in about 15 months' time even though the set up in U.S. Bureau of Mines is far better organised and they have Press of their own.

The Government will, however, endeavour to ensure that the entire work in this connection is completed in minimum period.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 31, Para 5.37)

The Committee note that the work regarding compilation of a complete inventory of mineral resources in the country is already in progress. In view of the stupendous nature of the job and in view of the great importance thereof in the proper development of mineral resources, the Committee feel that the job should be taken up in right earnest by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

Reply of Government

Due attention is being given by the Indian Bureau of Mines regarding the work connected with the "mineral inventory" and this work will continue to be done in right earnest.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 32, Para 5.40)

The Committee hope that early steps will be taken to evolve common forms for submission of returns by mineowners to different authorities with a view to ease the avoidable burden on the mineowners and thus earn their goodwill and cooperation.

Reply of Government

Necessary action is already in progress.

(Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971).

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Paras 2.23 & 2.24)

The Committee note that a new entrant is put as under-study with an experienced officer before being assigned an independent charge. The Committee are, however, surprised to note that at present no arrangement exists in the Bureau for imparting practical training to the staff through an organised training section.

The Committee, therefore, suggest that the Government should make necessary arrangements for imparting training to the staff through an organised training section.

Reply of Government

The actual recruitment position of direct recruits during the last 4 years is given below:

	1966	1967	1968	1969
Assistant Mineral Economist		1		
Assistant Ore Dressing Officer		2		1
Assistant Controller of Mines;	1		2	1—4 (yet to join)

The number of new entrants is too small to justify the creation of an organised "training section" within the Bureau. The Bureau also does not visualise considerable increase in the number of annual intake. The necessity for imparting training to new recruits does not justify a separate "training section" at present. However, new entrants are given on-the-job training under the supervision of experienced officers in the Bureau. As regards training facilities for the senior personnel in the Bureau, an appropriate scheme of

training which would consist of sending them for training in specialised fields in foreign countries, associating them with consulting firms within the country and exchange of personnel between Bureau and the Public Sector Corporations will be considered. Necessary action will be taken to rationalise and improve the existing training arrangements.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21, Para 4.26)

The Committee would suggest that Government should review the whole matter and examine the feasibility of helping the small mine-owners through Indian Bureau of Mines in regard to standard layouts and designs for various mining operations and components.

Reply of Government

It appears from para 4.24 of the 127th Report of the Estimates Committee that standardisation of mine layouts has been achieved in Russia. The Bureau has no precise knowledge as to how such standard layouts could be made and adopted. There are so many variables connected with design and layout of mining operations that a very large number of standard layouts covering all possible combination of factors will have to be prepared. In order to appreciate that need for standard layout in India the Bureau invited the views of some important mine operators in the country, of whom the Kolar Gold Mining Undertaking, Tata Iron and Steel Co., V. M. Salgaokar and Indian Copper Corporation have replied. Three of these replies categorically stated that it is not possible to have standard layouts in Indian conditions. The Kolar Gold Mining Undertaking, which have not been so categorical in their reply, have stated that general layouts will not suit the different types of deposits for their exploitation. However, our efforts in this direction will continue.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971]

Recommendation (Serial No. 30, Para 5.30)

The Committee are of the view that it is necessary to fix a firm date for the publication of the Minerals Year Book. They feel that the utility of the Year Book for the industry will definitely increase if it is printed and produced in a businesslike manner. The Commit-

tee, therefore, suggest that as soon as the arrangements for obtaining information are finalised the Bureau should endeavour to publish the Year Book within six months following the year to which it relates.

Reply of Government

The reply to para 5.28 would indicate that it may be possible to bring out the Indian Minerals Year Book within 18 months from the end of year to which the Year Book relates provided the printing is accomplished in about 6 months time.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated
19th April, 1971].

CHAPTER IV

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

--NIL--

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 28, Para 5.27)

The Committee are surprised to note that it has not been possible for the Ministry to overcome this difficulty of collecting information on internal consumption and production and on international trade in a period of 3 years since the recommendations of the Reorganisation Committee in this regard. The Committee suggest that early steps be taken to make necessary arrangements with our commercial secretaries abroad and with D.G.T.D. at home. Necessary changes should be affected in the relevant Rules if found necessary.

Reply of Government

(a) The question of obtaining the data on consumption of minerals in India was considered by the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals (Department of Mines and Metals) and the Cabinet Secretariat (Department of Statistics) were requested in July, 1970 to supply the following data to the Indian Bureau of Mines:—

- (i) Names and addresses of the principal manufacturing units consuming minerals in India.
- (ii) Their outputs (quantity and value) of principal products and inputs (quantity and value) of minerals in these units.

(b) The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Department of Mines and Metals) also requested the Ministry of Industrial Development and Internal Trade in July, 1970 to supply to the Indian Bureau of Mines the data on the detailed specification of minerals used for the various industrial outputs in India.

In case the data, which is ultimately made available to the Indian Bureau of Mines in response to the action mentioned above, do not fulfil the requirements of the Bureau, action will be initiated for making necessary provision under the Industries (Development &

Regulation) Act, 1951 for obtaining such data by prescribing specific *proforma*.

Apart from the above, the Bureau also initiated action during the 1969-70 to process and compile the data on the despatches of minerals for indigenous consumption and export and stocks, giving the grade-wise and State-wise break-ups with a view to provide information about the quantum and quality of minerals available for consumption in the indigenous industries and for export.

[Department of Mines & Metals O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated 19th April, 1971].

Further information called for by the Committee

Whereas the reply deals with the internal consumption the steps taken to collect information in regard to international trade may please be indicated.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5|16|(2) ECII|70, dated the 31st May, 1971].

Reply of Government

Information is being collected and will be sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat separately.

[Department of Mines & Metals, O.M. No. G-25013/2/70-M2, dated the 5th July, 1971].

APPENDIX

(Vide Introduction)

Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Report of the Estimates Committee Fourth Lok Sabha).

1. Total number of recommendations	32
2. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government (<i>vide</i> recommendations at Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31 & 32) Number;	28
Percentage to total	88
3. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply (<i>vide</i> recommendations at Sl. Nos. 7, 21 and 30)	
Number;	3
Percentage to total	9
4. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee	Nil
5. Recommendation in respect of which final reply is still awaited (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. No. 28)	
Number;	1
Percentage to total	3