

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2596

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010

PERMISSION FOR EXPLORING MINERALS

Ju Dev Shri Dilip Singh;Singh Shri Uday Pratap;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of companies which have been granted permission for conducting aerial and land survey for exploring various minerals including iron ore along with the validity period of the permission in the country, State-wise, including Chhattisgarh;
- (b) the findings made through such surveys;
- (c) the time by which such survey work is likely to be completed, State-wise and mineral-wise;
- (d) the criteria for classification of minerals into minor and major category;
- (e) whether any policy has been formulated to excavate sand from the river beds of the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) and (c): As per the information furnished by the Indian Bureau of Mines, 68 companies have been granted permission for conducting aerial and land surveys for exploring various minerals including Iron Ore. These companies have been granted Reconnaissance Permits (RP) to explore mainly Copper, Lead, Zinc, Gold, Diamond, Silver, Platinum group of elements, Tin, Nickel, Bismuth, Cobalt, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore etc. State-wise details of such Reconnaissance Permits are available on the website of the Indian Bureau of Mines (ibm.nic.in). As per section 7 (1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, the period for which an RP may be granted shall not exceed 3 years. The time of completion of such survey work in individual RPs varies from case to case.

(b): In the surveys carried out by the RP holders in their respective mineral concessions, many geological/geo-chemical/geo-physical anomalies have been identified on which pilot drilling has confirmed specific incidence of mineral occurrences.

(d): As per section 3 (e) of the MMDR Act, 1957, "minor minerals" means building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand other than sand used for prescribed purposes, and any other mineral which the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare to be a minor mineral. However, there is no criterion for classification of "major minerals".

(e) and (f): The responsibility for formulating policy for excavation of sand from river beds lies with the respective State Governments, as sand is a minor mineral.