

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3260  
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012  
SURVEY FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION  
Rani Killi Krupa

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of various mineral investigations/ surveys carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and other agencies along with outcome thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the quantum and value of metal and mineral reserves estimated in these areas, State/ UT-wise and mineral-wise;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred on mineral investigations for extraction of available minerals and its management in various States/UTs during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to undertake fresh survey to identify and tap the potential of new mineral rich areas;
- (e) if so, the details of new mineral rich areas identified in these survey in various States/UTs;
- (f) the progress made in regard to commercial exploitation of such minerals and their allocation to private companies; and
- (g) the measures taken /to be taken by the GSI and other agencies to adopt modern/latest technique in exploration of nation's rich mineral deposits?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES ( SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) : As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines [IBM], a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, the details of exploration activities carried out by various agencies like Geological Survey of India [GSI], Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited [MECL], Hindustan Copper Limited [HCL], Hindustan Zinc Limited [HZL] and State DGMs, etc. and the outcome thereof for various minerals during 2008-09 to 2010-11 is given in Annexure-I. The details of exploration programmes undertaken GSI during the field season 2012-13 is given in Annexure-II.

(b) : The details of quantum and value of metal and minerals reserves estimated are given in Annexure III and Annexure IV respectively.

(c) : GSI is not mandated to carry out extraction of available minerals and its management. However, the funds utilized under the Mineral Exploration scheme

during the said period is as stated below:

(Rs in crores)

| Mineral     | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13       |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Exploration |         |         |         | (upto Jul'12) |

|             |       |       |       |      |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Expenditure | 17.02 | 23.76 | 23.81 | 7.60 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|------|

(d) : Yes, Madam, GSI has identified areas to undertake fresh surveys, to explore new mineral rich areas.

(e) : GSI has identified 5.71 lakh square kilometers as Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) area for targetting search for mineral deposits in various parts of the country. During the course of regional resource assessment in OGP area in recent past, GSI has identified new mineral rich areas in various States, the details of which is given in Annexure-V.

(f) : Since the liberalisation of mining sector in 1993 with enumeration of National Mineral Policy 1993, private sector participation in mining and exploration has increased. All mineral concessions, including mining leases and prospecting licences, are granted in terms of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act 1957 and Rules framed thereunder and commercial exploitation of any particular mineral is dependent on the market demand for such mineral.

(g) : GSI is carrying out systematic investigation for mineral resource assessment of the country in geologically potential areas through modern and sophisticated exploration methods / techniques involving modern geological mapping techniques, geomorphological and lineament mapping through study of satellite imageries, aero and ground geophysical studies and geochemical mapping. Keeping this in view GSI has initiated extensive programme of modernization on the advice of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries, and as per guidelines laid down by an Expert Panel on Modernization of GSI, constituted by the Dept. of Mines. The modernization programme is aimed to improve the regional exploration for assessment of natural resources by infusion of latest state of art technology. The details of Technology Infusion envisaged by GSI during XI, XII, XIII, XIV and XV Five Year Plan Period are at Annexure-VI.