

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:212

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

MINERAL EXPLORATION

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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 for various minerals including Gold, Diamond and Platinum 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) the progress made in regard to commercial exploitation of such minerals and their allocation to private companies; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to undertake fresh survey to identify and tap the potential of new mineral rich areas for various minerals including Gold, Diamond and Platinum during the Twelfth Five Year Plan and using modern/latest technique in exploration?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRIDINSHA 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 [GS], 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 2009-10 and 2010-11 is given in Annexure-I. The details of mineral resources estimated by GSI during the field season period 2010-12 and for MECL during 2011-12 is given in Annexure-I(A). The details of exploration programme undertaken by GSI during the field season 2012-13 is given in Annexure-II and mineral exploration projects by MECL during current year 2012-13 is given in Annexure-II(A).

(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:

(in crores)

Mineral Exploration 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13
(upto January 2013)

Expenditure 17.02 23.76 23.81 20.14

Further, for promotional exploration carried out by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited [MECL] on behalf of Ministry of Mines the year-wise outlay and utilization for the last 3 years and the current year is given below :

(in crores)

ITEM 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13

Outlay 10.00 7.00 8.00 10.00

Utilisation 10.00 7.00 8.00 5.38

(upto January 2013)

As per the information available with IBM, 394 Reconnaissance Permits [RPs] were approved by Ministry of Mines and incurred expenditure by RP holders was Rs. 300.90 crores. The state wise Summary of RPs approved in India with expenditure incurred is given in Annexure – V.

(d) : Since the liberalisation of mining sector in 1993 and adoption of National Mineral Policy 2008, 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.

(e) : GSI has identified areas to undertake fresh surveys for exploring new mineral deposits.

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 are given in Annexure-VI.

GSI is carrying out systematic investigation for mineral resource assessment of the country in geologically potential areas through modern and sophisticated exploration methods 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. 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 XII Five Year Plan Period is at Annexure-VII.