

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:161

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2013

MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

Biju Shri P. K.;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of exploration of the total mineral wealth of the country undertaken so far;
- (b) whether exploration activities being carried out by various agencies are adequate to tap the mineral reserves across the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/ proposed by the Government to scale up the quality of mineral resources exploration, extraction and also to strengthen their management in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.161 REGARDING 'MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES' ASKED BY SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA AND SHRI P.K. BIJU FOR ANSWER ON 08TH MARCH 2013.

(a) : India has a total land area of 32.80 lakh square kilometres (sq. km). Geological Survey of India [GSI], as a part of regional exploration has completed baseline geological mapping of 30.90 lakhs sq. km. This led to identification of an area of 5.71 lakh sq.km having high potential for mineral resources. For further enhanced exploration, GSI is undertaking geophysical and geochemical mapping and has completed geochemical mapping of 3.28 lakh sq. km and geophysical mapping of 1.95 lakh sq. km.

(b) to (e) : Based on the baseline mapping carried out by GSI, a number of exploration agencies such as Atomic Minerals Directorate, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, State Directorates of Geology and Mining, State/ Central Undertakings and private enterprises are engaged in detailed exploration of mineral deposits. Mineral exploration is a continuous process. GSI, being the principal agency for mineral resource assessment of the country, has taken the following major steps for accelerating mineral exploration:

Government restructured GSI in October 2011 and created 1353 technical posts.

Inducted more than 400 geoscientists in GSI since 2011.

Adoption of multisensor aero-geophysical airborne surveys and Hyper spectral mapping.

Integrated surveys for targeting concealed and deep-seated mineral deposits.

Introduction of high precision gravimeter, total field magnetometer for geophysical surveys and state-of-the-art chemical analyses instruments for generating precise elemental data.

Acquiring state of art and modern Ocean Going Research Vessel to replace existing Research Vessel. For further strengthening the management of mines and minerals, Mines and Minerals [Development and Regulation][MMDR] Bill 2011 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12.12.2011 to replace existing MMDR Act of 1957.