

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:55
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2014
AVAILABILITY OF MINERALS IN BIKANER
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large deposits of various minerals are abundantly available in various parts of the country including in Bikaner area of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the strategy being made by the Government for extraction of these minerals and its utilization for the economic development of the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a special unit in Bikaner for exploration of the available minerals with the help of Government companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES, STEEL AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The mineral-wise details of the country are available at Indian Bureau of Mines [IBM]'s website ibm.gov.in/imyb2012_Vol.III.htm. In Bikaner area, the Geological Survey of India [GSI] and other organizations have identified resources of Lignite, Fuller's Earth, Potash, Gypsum, China Clay, Ball Clay, Fire Clay, Limestone, Ochre and Quartz-Silica Sand. For exploitation and utilization of these minerals, it is stated that with the liberalization of mining sector in the year 1993, exploration and mining of minerals is open to the private sector. State Governments, as the owners of minerals, grant mineral concessions. In case of some minerals listed in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 prior approval of the Central Government is necessary. Further, mineral exploitation and utilization are dependent on the demand of particular mineral and grant of mineral concessions by the State Governments.

(c) & (d) There is no proposal for setting up of a special unit in Bikaner for exploration of the available minerals with the help of Government companies.