

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:87  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014  
MINERAL DEPOSITS IN RAJASTHAN  
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that 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 AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) and (b): Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, carries out regional mineral surveys / preliminary investigation for locating mineral deposit in different parts of the country, including Bikaner area of Rajasthan. The details of important mineral resources estimated by GSI as on 01.04.2013 are given at Annexure-I.

GSI has carried out investigations for Lignite, Fuller's Earth, Potash, China Clay, Gypsum and Glass Sand minerals in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. The details of mineral resources estimated by GSI in Bikaner area of Rajasthan is given at Annexure-II.

Exploration by GSI is of a regional level and areas of enhanced mineralization usually need further investigation. Based on the regional level work of GSI or otherwise, applicants can apply for mineral concessions for detailed exploration. In case such exploration reveals exploitable deposits, an applicant can seek a mining concession. State Government, as owner of the minerals, is the authority to grant mineral concessions for mineral extraction. Growth in mineral production is driven by market demand. In order to incentivize and encourage exploration and mining activities, the Government enunciated the National Mineral Policy, 2008 for non-coal and non-fuel mineral sector.

(c): No Madam.

(d): Does not arise in the view of (c) above.