

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, the Government of India allocates physical target (in terms of number of youths to be assisted) to States/UTs. The district-wise allocation of target is done by the respective States/UTs. The Government of India assists by way of funds for subsidy, training, contingencies etc. The funds for subsidy are released to the Reserve Bank of India to be passed on to individual beneficiaries through implementing banks. The funds for training, contingency etc. are released to the State/UT Governments who in turn make district-wise allocation on the basis of district-wise targets. However, the bulk of the project assistance comes by way of loan from banks for the identified youths.

(b) As per the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India, 30500 youths were disbursed loans by banks for the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(c) The allocation of funds to States/UTs is linked to allocation of targets to States/UTs. Gujarat has been allocated target under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana based on the norms for allocation of targets being followed for States/UTs.

Mining of Diamonds

1576. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of mines where diamonds are mined in the country;

(b) the total production of diamonds in the country during the last three years;

(c) whether any new sites have been identified for mining of diamonds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms and conditions on which the mines have been given to private parties for mining purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Production of diamond is reported from the following mine in the country:

State/District	Name of Mine	Name of Owner
Madhya Pradesh Panna dist.	1. Majhgawan	M/s National Mineral development Corporation Limited.

Besides the mine owned by M/s National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, the Government of Madhya Pradesh is also giving licences for shallow mining over an area of 7.5m x 7.5m to individuals on yearly basis for exploitation of diamond in alluvial and conglomerate beds in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Production of diamond in the country during the last three years is given below:

State	Qty. in carats						Value in Rs.'000	
	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 <sup>@</sup>		Qty.	Value
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value		
Madhya Pradesh	31,836	220329	31018	171830	26683	141822		

<sup>@</sup>Relates to April to December, 1998.

(c) and (d) As per information furnished by Geological Survey of India, they have located a few kimberlite pipes, the source rock for diamond in the States of Andhra

Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Some of the pipes are diamondiferous and the exploration is in progress. These are:

*Madhya Pradesh :*

Five kimberlite bodies were discovered in the Bahradih-Payalikhhand area in Raipur district. Of these, the Bahradih and the two Payalikhhand kimberlites are diamond bearing whereas the Jangra and Kodomali bodies are yet to be tested. In Bastar district, 4 kimberlite bodies were found at Tokapal, Duganpal, Bhajripadar and Parakot. Indicator mineral chemistry indicates that those kimberlites were from the diamond stability field. The processing of the conglomerate of the Panna Diamond Belt and the processing of Krishna gravels in Krishna, Guntur, Cuddapah and Prakasam district under the National Diamond Project has resulted in assessment of their potential. However except for the Hatupur and Sahidan conglomerate blocks, the incidence of diamond in conglomerate and gravels are in general very low.

*Andhra Pradesh :*

Thirteen new kimberlite bodies (occurring in Wajrakarur Kimberlite field, Wajrakarur-Latavaram-Central segment, Chigicherla-Southern segment and Kalyandurg area) were discovered in the Wajrakarur kimberlite field bringing the total no. of kimberlites to 21. Of these thirteen new bodies, seven have so far been found to be diamondiferous. The processing of the kimberlite bodies are in progress. The kimberlite pipe no. 7 has shown comparatively rich incidence of diamond. In the Maddur Narayanpet Field (which extends to Gulbarga district of Karnataka) 30 kimberlite bodies have so far been found but none of the eleven bodies tested so far have shown diamond incidence.

(e) Mineral concessions are granted by State Governments in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The proviso to Sub-section (1) of Section 5 of the said Act provides that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule of the Act, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government. Diamond is a mineral specified in the First Schedule of the said Act and prior Central Government approval is required before grant of mining lease by the State Government. The Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (MC Rules, 1960) framed by the Central Government in accordance with the powers under Section 13 of the above Act, *inter-alia*, provides for terms and conditions for grant of mining lease which are detailed in Rule 27 of the MC Rules, 1960 and the mining lease document (Form K, appended to the MC Rules, 1960)

No mining lease has been granted for mining diamond to a private party.

[Translation]

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Foreign Trade Agreements

1577. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries with which trade agreements have been signed by the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of items in regard to which the said agreements have been made; and

(c) the outcome of these trade agreements?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Trade Agreements with the following countries were signed during the last three years :

Mongolia	—	16.9.1996
Republic of Bulgaria	--	4.12.1996
Trinidad & Tobago	—	24.1.1997
Ethiopia	—	6.3.1997
Nepal	—	6.12.1996
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	—	8.3.1997
Seychelles	—	18.9.1998
Sri Lanka	—	28.12.1998
Austria	—	12.2.1999

(b) and (c) The Trade Agreements do not contain any specific items. The areas of co-operation are discussed when Joint Trade Committee Meetings on bilateral basis is held. The Trade Agreements provide a valuable framework and directions for the business people and Government officials to exchange views to identify areas of co-operation to enhance bilateral trade and investment opportunities for mutual gains.