

NRI Deposits

2600. **SHRI ASHOK ANAND-RAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of NRI deposits at the end of each year during the last five fiscal years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): The amount of NRI deposits at the end of each year during the last five fiscal years are as follows:

	<i>Cumulative NRI deposits</i>
31-3-86	5650
31-3-87	7847
31-3-88	10054
31-3-89	14154
31-3-90	17809

Exploration of New Gold Mines

2601. **SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gold mines which have been explored during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the location of each of these gold mines;

(c) the approximate quantum of gold deposit in these mines; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the exploration of new gold mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c) The details of the gold projects explored during the Seventh Five Year Plan are as follows:

<i>Project/block</i>	<i>District and State</i>	<i>Reserve estimate (Million tonnes)</i>	<i>Grade (Grammes per tonne)</i>
1. Chigargunta mine	Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh	1.352	2.52
2. Ramgiri (Yerappa-Gantallappa)	Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	0.036	2.5
3. Old Bisanatham	Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh	0.135	5.10
4. Hosur Champion East	Dharwar, Karnataka	0.438	2.84
5. Budhini	Raichur, Karnataka	0.210	2.16
6. Mysore Mine block	Dharwar, Karnataka	0.090	2.72
7. Champion West lode	Dharwar, Karnataka	1.192	2.3
8. Kempinkotre	Hassan, Karnataka	0.515	2.96
9. Kunderkocha	Singhbhum, Bihar	0.008	13.11

(d) The Geological Survey of India and the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited along with Bharat Gold Mines Limited are actively involved in exploration of new gold mines. The Chigargunta mine is being developed for a production of 250 tonnes per day of gold ore. A decision on exploitation of the rest of the prospects will depend on their techno-economic viability.

(g) the details of Government policy regarding the production of sponge iron?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) At present the installed capacity for the manufacture of sponge iron is 1.4 million tonnes. State-wise details are given below:—

Sponge Iron Production

2602. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the installed capacity of the sponge iron manufacturing units at present, State-wise;

(b) the estimated requirement of the sponge iron during the next three years;

(c) whether any new production units of sponge iron are being established;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether major exporters of iron ore have been objecting to establishment of new sponge iron units in Goa;

(f) if so, the reasons thereof; and

<i>State</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (in lakh tonnes)</i>
Andhra Pradesh	0.6
Bihar	1.2
Gujarat	8.0
Maharashtra	1.5
Orissa	2.7

(b) Sponge Iron is a partial substitute for steel melting scrap. It is estimated that the total requirement of scrap during the next 3 years will be between 9 and 11 million tonnes. At present sponge iron can substitute melting scrap to the extent of about 30%.

(c) and (d) The following new production units of sponge iron are being established:—

<i>Company</i>	<i>Location of Unit</i>	<i>Plant capacity (in lakh tonnes/ annum)</i>
(i) Goldstar Steel & Alloy Ltd.	Near Vizianagaram in A.P.	2.2
(ii) Jindal Strips	Raigarh, M.P.	3.0
(iii) Grasim Industries Ltd.	Raigad, Maharashtra	6.0
Total		11.2

(e) and (f) No such representation has been received by Government.

(g) In order to encourage the pro-

duction of sponge iron in the country Government have de-licensed the manufacture of sponge iron.