

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, April 26, 1985, Vaisakha 6,
1907 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Survey for Locating Minerals

*608. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND
COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether geographical survey for locating minerals in the country has been completed and whether Government have come to know the type and quantum of minerals that are available at different places;

(b) if so, when the work was completed and the total expenditure Government have incurred on this account so far;

(c) if the survey has not been completed the time by which the same will be completed;

(d) whether the State Governments have sought co-operation from Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the names of the States which have taken help from Union Government; and

(f) the State-wise details of the minerals found during the last three years ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES
AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
(a) to (f). A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c). Geological Surveys, *inter alia*, for locating minerals are a continuous process in which various Central Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings like Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited etc. and the State Directorates of Mining and Geology are engaged.

2. As a result of these surveys, substantial reserves of major minerals have been established in the country. These minerals are coal, iron ore, manganese ore, limestone, chromite, dolomite, copper, lead-zinc, bauxite, phosphorite etc.

3. The programme of work of Geological Survey of India, which is the main Central Government organisation responsible for carrying out geological surveys in the country, is formulated every year in consultation with the State Governments in the State Geological Programming Boards, and finalised at the national level, at the Central Geological Programming Board on which various agencies involved in exploration for minerals are represented. In this manner, exploration for minerals by the Geological Survey of India and other State Government organisations is taken up in a coordinated manner.

4. As the search for minerals is part of the total activity of Geological Survey of India which includes geological mapping, detailed mapping, geophysical and geochemical tests, drilling etc., no separate accounts are

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maintained specifically for expenditure incurred on search for minerals.

(d) and (e). Several State Governments have, from time to time, sought cooperation from the Government of India in the exploration of minerals in their States. More recently, the Government of Rajasthan has sought collaboration in the exploration of tungsten and lignite; the Government of

Madhya Pradesh has sought assistance for exploration of phosphorite; and Jammu & Kashmir Government for exploration of sapphire deposits. This assistance is being extended.

(f) Details of the mineral deposits, State-wise, estimated during the last three years are given below :

(In Million tonnes)

Name of the mineral	State-wise break-up	Total
1	2	3
Coal	Andhra Pradesh (74.73), Bihar (2144.75), Madhya Pradesh (3,327.19), Meghalaya (2.35), Orissa (2,737.13) and West Bengal (2,275.57)	10,561.62
Lignite	Tamil Nadu (592.05) and Rajasthan (62.94)	654.90
Iron ore (Hematite)	Goa (1061), Karnataka (6.00) Madhya Pradesh (480.00 resource)	1547
Manganese ore	Orissa (1.34), Karnataka (1.43) and Andhra Pradesh (3.85)	6.62
Nickel ore	Bihar (7.26)	7.26 (with 0.35 to 0.7% Ni)
Chromite	Orissa (131 re-assessed)	131 (reassessed)
Limestone	Andhra Pradesh (10.00), Arunachal Pradesh (4.45), Himachal Pradesh (68.00) and Madhya Pradesh (970.00)	1052.45
Dolomite	West Bengal (40.19) and Arunachal Pradesh (210.00)	250.19
Copper ore	Bihar (0.49), Maharashtra (1.00), Orissa (0.70) and Rajasthan (6.96) Haryana (15.00 resource)	9.15 (with 0.70% to 1.47% Cu) 15.00 (resource) (0.35% Cu)
Lead-Zinc ore	Maharashtra (1.70), Rajasthan (115.00) and West Bengal (0.45)	117.16
Bauxite	Bihar (4.95), Madhya Pradesh (14.60) and Orissa (81.00)	100.55

1	2	3
Phosphorite/ Rock Phosphate	Madhya Pradesh (29.00), Meghalaya (3.00) and West Bengal (3.93)	35.93
Gold ore	Andhra Pradesh (4.33) and Karnataka (3.17)	7.50 (average grade 4 gms/tonne)
Diamond	Madhya Pradesh (0.2545 million carats)	0.2545 million carats
Tungsten ore	Maharashtra (3.96) and Rajasthan (0.17)	4.13 (0.1 to 0.3% W)
Tin ore	Haryana (8.00)	8.00 (0.15 to 0.20% Tin)

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, four to five departments are engaged in the work relating to geological survey. These are the Central Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, the Geological Survey of India, the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., and the State Directorates of Mining and Geology. Kindly tell us whether you have set up any machinery for coordination of the work of these separate Departments and what type of jobs have been assigned to them? When did these Departments come into existence and how much total money has been spent on them till today? I am not asking for the break up of the expenditure on each of them separately. I want to know how much total money has been spent on them by the Central Government?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : In this matter, the major responsibility is that of the Geological Survey of India. The work is done at two levels, *i.e.*, at the Central Geological Programming Board level and at State Geological Programming Board level. You have asked about coordination. Coordination work in connection with the Geological Survey of India is done by the Central Geological Programming Board which finalises the mapping of the whole of the country.

The Hon. Member has asked how much expenditure has been incurred so far. I do not have with me the figures of the exact

amount but this much I can tell him that in the Second Five Year Plan exploration was done for about 20,000 metres. More stress was laid on it in 1972 when the coal mines were nationalised. It is a matter for happiness that besides oil fields, we did exploration of 5 to 6 lakh metres in the Sixth Five Year Plan. Detailed mapping in respect of 59 per cent of our total land has been done so far. We hope that by the end of next Plan, mapping, which is called detailed mapping for the purpose of minerals, of the entire country will be completed. There are 3.28 million square kms. of land in our country. I am talking of on-shore land and not about off-shore land. Detailed mapping of 59 per cent of on shore land, *i.e.*, systematic Geological coverage of this area has been completed by 1984 and it is hoped that by 1990 the entire country will be covered.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You have given a correct answer and have done a good home work but I had asked since when these Departments had started working? When you say that Geological Survey of 59 per cent of area has been done, I would like to know since when you started this work and how much total expenditure has been incurred from the First Plan to the Sixth Plan separately?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have already said that I do not have figures of expenditure with me at the moment. I shall collect and send this information to the Hon. Member.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You may inform me about this later on or send this information to me through a letter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I shall definitely send this information.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You have put a lot of hard work. Important metals and minerals like gold, zinc, uranium and diamond are being exploited in the country and during the last three years you have made detailed survey. Now kindly tell me whether you have prepared any specific programme or have found out any new method with the help of the latest technology to develop these metals? I also want to know whether you are thinking of preparing an atlas of the work of Geological Survey of India so that if any body wants to know, he may be able to see from the atlas that this much work has been done.

Another thing I want to know is that a Review Committee of the Geological Survey of India had been constituted and it had given some suggestions. Which of these suggestions have been accepted by you and have you implemented them or not? If not, why not and with what results?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Geological Survey is continuous process. It is not that today you start and tomorrow you stop it. Continuous review goes on and assessment of the findings is made along with it. Later on, precise assessment is made as to the extent of minerals and whether exploration will be economical or not. The exploration stage comes only after all these things have been done. Therefore, a constant review of the work goes on.

You have given a good suggestion that an atlas should be prepared. We have an atlas but it goes on becoming obsolete. New finds are made and it becomes necessary to update it. I assure the House that the Geological Map, which is called the atlas, will be updated and I welcome the idea of the Hon. Member. We shall endeavour to see that the atlas, when prepared, is provided, to all the Hon. Members and we shall issue it to the general public also.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir,

there is already an answer that a Review Committee was set up and it gave its Report also, and now he says that this is.....
(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have said that the Reports keep on coming in and are considered. It is not and it should not be the practice that once a Report is submitted and considered, the matter should end there.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You have already answered that a Committee was set up and it gave its recommendations, some of which you have implemented and left the rest of them. I can read out the answer given by his Department...(Interruption).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mool Chand Daga, please sit down now. You can go to the Minister's chamber and discuss it further.

SHRI THIAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, in the statement furnished by the Minister, the names of certain States are mentioned but I find that there is no mention of Kerala which is supposed to be one of the States rich in minerals and metals. Even there is a company known as Kerala Metals and Minerals Ltd., and the rare earth, which is a very rare mineral, is also available only in Kerala. There is a place in Kerala, known as Attapady Valley, where very costly metals like tungsten and gold are available and where a survey was also made in this respect. I do not know why Kerala does not find any mention in the statement given by the Minister. So, I would like to know whether the Government will consider under some Central scheme, to explore the possibilities of getting these minerals and metals available in Kerala, which are of rare quality, and whether surveys will be made in that respect to promote their exploration. There is also a possibility of getting diamonds in Trivandrum area. These are fresh news that minerals and metals like gold, diamonds, tungsten, ect. are also available in Kerala. Since there is no mention about Kerala in the statement, I would like to know whether it is true that no survey has been conducted in that State or is it not known to the Central Government that such surveys have been conducted. I personally know that there were some surveys conducted.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I agree that in Kerala, some good minerals have been found but this statement relates only to the last three years. The questioner has asked what are the details of the mineral deposits, State-wise, estimated during the last three years. That is why this list has been given. May be during the last three years we may not have found anything in Kerala, but before that we had already found, and that detailed information if the Hon. Member wants about Kerala as to what has been found up-till now, I will send.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I want the Government to take more steps to dig out those deposits and bring them as a national wealth. My request is to allot some money for this purpose.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are constantly doing it. As far as rich minerals are concerned, we are ourselves interested in them. Whichever is the State, it belongs to India and we are very keen to explore every mineral.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : In your answer, you have given some figures with respect to mineral deposits estimated during the last three years, and in respect of Goa, the figure is 1,061 million tonnes regarding iron ore. I would like to know whether Government of India has made any survey with regard to iron ore deposits which are likely to be extracted during the coming twenty years and whether these deposits will be exhausted, as it is feared, after a period of twenty years, as a result of which Mormugao Port Trust authorities have even started to plan the diversification of their activities of exports.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I agree that any deposit ultimately will get exhausted. Now, how soon in Goa the iron ore deposits will get exhausted is a matter which depends on now we are going to exploit it. The idea of conservation of our deposits is also a very important point and we are also keeping that aspect in mind wherever any minerals are exploited.

DR. V. VENKATESH : We are producing four grams per tonne of gold in our country. This is a very pitiable condition. I come from Kolar where the Kolar Gold Field

is situated. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether any scientific approach is formulated to get more gold from the same mines or any other alternative is being thought of, because thousands and thousands of people are working in the gold mines and are working deeper and deeper with the result their health is very much affected. Their future is also affected because of this. The Hon. Minister may also throw light on what measures has the Government taken in order to extract more gold as well as to see that the health of the labourers who are working in that field is not adversely affected.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We ourselves are very seriously concerned about this subject. We are looking into all these matters of trying to find in the reef if there are any gold deposits which can be exploited and how we can more scientifically exploit the remaining two per cent of the deposit in the Kolar Gold Field.

Of course, I agree we cannot go deeper and deeper at the cost of the health of our people. So, we are having all this in mind as we are concerned with the future of those employees.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : A few days back it has been reported in the local newspapers of Nagpur that a geological survey of the Vidarbha region has been conducted. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether such a survey has been conducted. If so, the findings of the survey; and also whether any action has been taken to explore the minerals of the Vidarbha region.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not have any information whether we have conducted a separate geological survey of the Vidarbha region as such, because we do not go by region in each State. But I can tell the Hon. Member that we have conducted a survey in the Maharashtra State as a whole. Vidarbha is a part of this region and most of the very rich mineral deposits of the entire Maharashtra State are found in the Vidarbha region, such as Tungsten, Manganese, Bauxite etc. Therefore, wherever I have used the word Maharashtra, you can say that it is either in some part of it, in Ratnagiri or in some areas around it. Most of it is in the Vidarbha region. That is a fact and we are constantly

trying to explore and find out as much of minerals all over the country and also in Maharashtra.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The methods of geological exploration have changed over the years because of developments in science and technology. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister to what extent we are taking advantage of the latest methods of exploration like remote sensing or echo sensing and things like that; and whether the areas which we have already explored or are going to explore are being explored by using the new methods.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, Sir. We are using the latest methods, including air, space investigation from satellite, mapping; then seismic and other methods of trying to find out what is contained underground. So, the latest and most scientific methods are being used. Even in areas which were explored by earlier methods, if new methods can give us anything more, we use those new methods also. We leave no stone unturned to see what is hidden underground.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : In a written answer to one of my questions, the other day, the Government confirmed that it has successfully detected poly-metallic modules from the seabed in our exclusive economic zone. I would like to know whether the Minister in his Ministry has done any survey of the amount and the type of poly metallic modules which may be available to us from our exclusive economic zone.

Secondly, I would like to know whether our INSAT-IB has revealed any exciting prospect of mineral deposits in our mountains or in our plains or in our maritime economic zone.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, about all

the detailed information about this poly-metallic modules in the sea bed and in the air which the Hon. Member has given, I will get the details and pass them on to him.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I asked about INSAT-IB also.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : From INSAT-IB also whatever is possible to get I will convey it to him.

Export of Locomotives and Coaches

*609. **SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of locomotives and coaches exported during the last three years, year-wise and the foreign exchange earned thereby;

(b) whether there is a decline in the export of locomotives and coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to review their present policy of export of locomotives and coaches;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other measures being taken to increase the export of locomotives and coaches in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). Export of coaches and locomotives in the last three years are given below :

Year	Coaches		Locomotives	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
		(Rs. lakhs)		(Rs. lakhs)
1982-83	—	—	—	—
1983-84	—	—	—	—
1984-85	24	264	15	1380