

deration is also marketing some portion of the mills' production at lower prices enabled through reduced distribution costs.

### Availability of Precious Mineral Resources

\*1610. SHRI K. PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding precious mineral resources available in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to tap them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Among the important precious and semi-precious mineral resources available in the country are Diamond, Sapphire, Emerald, Ruby, Garnet and Gold. National Mineral Development Corporation has estimated 6 lakhs carats of Diamond in Majhgawan in Panna and about 1.15 lakhs carats in Ramkheria in M.P. Diamond bearing host rocks has also been identified in other places in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and resources position is being assessed. Occurrences of other minerals include Sapphire and Ruby in J. and K. Emerald and Garnet in Rajasthan, and Ruby in Andhra Pradesh and Karanataka etc. The resource availability of these minerals is yet to be established. A number of Gold occurrences have been located in Karanataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Orissa.

(b) An integrated diamond exploration programme with experimental processing of the diamond bearing ores has been initiated by Geological Survey of India with the support of Mineral Exploration Corporation and National Mineral Development Corporation in the various parts of the country. The programme is expected to be completed in three years time. A Geological Survey of India exploration programme with the assistance of

Mineral Exploration Corporation in the Northern and Southern part of the Kolar Gold Schist belt is also in progress. Bharat Gold Mines Limited is also engaged in exploratory mining in the Southern part where occurrence of gold appears to be promising.

### Minerals Found in M.P.

\*611. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the names of the minerals found in Madhya Pradesh and its approximate quantity and uses thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): According to the Geological Survey of India, following Minerals have been found in Madhya Pradesh:-

Minerals	Quantity of estimated reserves (in Million Tonnes)
Coal	17,787
Iron Ore	2,764
Manganese Ore	11,76
Lime Stone	5,964
Dolomite-	1,568
Copper Ore	73,58
Bauxite	193,24
Phosphorite	8,92
China Clay	8.14
Fire Clay	101.37

Besides the above minerals, N.M.D.C. have estimated reserves of 7.15 lakhs carats of diamond in producing mines in Madhya Pradesh. Deposits of Tin mineral, Talc/Steatite/Soap-Stone, Flourite and minor occurrence of a number of other minerals which include pyrophyllite, glass