

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 559
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2018

MINING OF COPPER AND OTHER METALS IN H.P. AND UTTARAKHAND

559. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any serious initiative for exploration of copper and other metals in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor, considering the fact that ancient and medieval literature refer to extraction of copper and other metals ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND COAL (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Geological Survey of India, an attached office of Ministry of Mines, has carried out exploration of copper and other metals in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under M/o Mines has undertaken exploration of mineral resources in Uttarakhand. The details are as follows:

I. Exploration in Himachal Pradesh:

(i) Copper(Cu), cobalt (Co) and nickel (Ni):

- Investigation on copper and associated metal was carried in Naraul and surrounding areas of Kullu district during Field Season [FS] 1963-64, 1965-66 and FS 1991-96. The estimated average grade of copper is 1.11% with an average thickness of 3.86 m over a strike length of 180 m. The cobalt value ranges from 15 ppm to 1500 ppm and nickel value ranges from <10 ppm to 1100 ppm.
- Based on these analytical result, GSI has taken up a programme during FS 2018-19 for preliminary exploration for copper, cobalt and nickel mineralisation in Naraul-Danala Area, Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh at the G3 Stage of United Nations Framework Classification (G3 stage).
- Further, minor occurrences of copper have been reported from Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti, Sirmaur and Solan district of Himachal Pradesh.

(ii) Lead (Pb) and Zinc (Zn):

- GSI carried out G3 stage base-metal investigation in Anyar block, Tons valley, Sirmaur district from FS 1992-1994. The estimated resource of Pb & Zn at Anyar block is as follows-
 - 2.50% (Pb+Zn) cutoff grade, resource estimated: 0.39 million tonnes.
 - 7.50% (Pb+Zn) cutoff grade, resource estimated: 0.27 million tonnes.
- Further, minor occurrences of lead have been reported from Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul and Spiti, Shimla, Sirmaur and Solan districts of Himachal Pradesh.

(iii) Tin (Sn), Tungsten (W), Antimony (Sb):

- GSI carried out exploration in parts of Kinnaur district in 1985, 1986 and 1988 and FS 1993-94 & 1994-95 on occurrence of tin, tungsten and antimony.
- Further, Stibnite occurring as small veins in the granitic rocks have also been reported from Bara Shigri area, Lahaul and Spiti district.

(iv) Iron (Fe):

- Minor occurrences of iron ore have been reported from Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul and Spiti, Shimla, Mandi and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh.

II. **Exploration in Uttarakhand:**

(i) Lead (Pb), Zinc (Zn) and Copper(Cu):

- Dehradun District:
 - GSI carried out G3 stage base metal investigation in Chamri and Amtiargad blocks ,Kwanu area, Tons valley Dehradun district, Uttarakhand in FS: 1983-84 to 1991-92. The resource estimated at Chamri block was 0.39 million tonnes with an average grade of 4.90% zinc, 2.68% lead and 0.37% copper and resource estimated at Amtiargad block was 1.41 million tonnes with 6.57% basemetal content.
- Pithoragarh District:
 - GSI carried out G3 stage base metal investigation in Askot Block, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand in FS: 1974-75. The resource estimated at Askot block was 1.14 million tonnes with a grade of copper-2.32%, lead-2.64% and zinc-3.95%.
 - Further, minor occurrences of lead, zinc and copper have been reported from Almora, Chamoli, Pauri- Garwhal, Tehri-Garwhal, Nainital and Rudraprayag districts of Uttarakhand.
 - MECL carried out mineral exploration for polymetallic [copper, lead, zinc] in Askot Block and the resource estimated was 0.80 million tonnes with grade of copper-2.61%, lead-2.96% and zinc-4.39%.

(ii) Tungsten (W), Antimony (Sb) and Molybdenum (Mo):

- Tungsten mineralization has been reported from Almora and Chamoli districts of Uttarakhand.
- The antimony mineralization occurrence was reported from Dudhkhaba and Dandakhan localities of Mohankhal-Pokhari area of Chamoli district in FS: 1962-63 (G4 stage).
- Reconnaissance survey (G4 stage) for tungsten, and associated rare-metal and REE mineralization has been carried out in Almora -Dudhatoli crystallines around Bhararisain area in FS 2015-16 and in Tertiary granites and Central Crystallines of Higher Himalaya, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand during FS 2017-18.

(iii) Magnesite:

- MECL carried out exploration for magnesite in Jhiroli block, Almora District and has estimated a resource of 11.98 million tonnes with grade of 44.18% magnesite.

(iv) Gold (Au):

- In Uttarakhand Himalaya, reconnaissance survey (G4 stage) was carried out in FS: 2007-09 & 2010-12 and gold occurrences have been reported from Chamoli (Malari & Niti area), Pithoragarh (Milam area), Rudraprayag (Lameri-Ratura area,) and Nainital districts but the results are not encouraging.
- Besides, placer gold was reported from Nainital and Pauri-Garwhal districts of Uttarakhand in FS: 1985-86 to 1987-88.

(v) REE (Rare Earth Element):

- In FS 2015-16 & 17-18 GSI carried out G4 stage investigation for REE mineralization in Pauri-Garwhal and Chamoli districts of Uttarakhand but the results are not encouraging.

(vi) Iron (Fe):

- Minor occurrence of Iron ore has been reported from Ramgarh area, Nainital district of Uttarakhand in FS: 2013-15 (G4 stage).

(vii) Copper (Cu):

- Reconnaissance survey (G4 stage) for Copper and associated mineralization has been taken up in Kund-Bamsu area, Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand during FS 2018-19.

(c): In view of above, question does not arise.
