

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 396
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17th November, 2016**

MINERAL EXPLORATION TARGETS

396. SHRI HARI MANJHI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to undertake mineral exploration in a planned and time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of mineral exploration targets fixed and achievements made during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17, so far, mineral wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the role played by the geologists in raising the standard of exploration in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES, POWER, COAL
AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) & (b): Yes. Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, takes up mineral exploration work through its annual field season programs (FSP). GSI also ensures that regional and detailed exploration is carried out systematically in a time bound manner following the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) guidelines (G4, G3, G2 & G1 stages of exploration). Further, GSI carries out off shore mineral investigation in the territorial waters (TW) and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of India using its research vessels as per its annual field season programs.

Besides, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a PSU under Ministry of Mines is also carrying out exploration by promotional funding of Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Coal as per plans and timelines set by the government.

Mineral wise Target vs Achievement of GSI for FS 2015-16, and Target for FS 2016-17 is Annexed.

Mineral-wise physical targets and achievements of MECL are as follows:

Sl. No.	Mineral	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
		Target	Actual Achievement	Target	Achievement
		Drilling (m)	Drilling (m)	Drilling (m)	Drilling (m)
Through promotional funding of Ministry of Mines, Mineral Exploration Fund (MEF) and National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)					
1	Gold	2560	2868	3,000	-
2	Copper	5260	3439	5,000	1,076
3	Lead - Zinc & Copper	1280	108	-	-
4	Molybdenum	-	2894	1,000	1,207
5	Potash	-	166	5,000	874
6	Iron	-	-	7,500	2457
7	Limestone	-	-	1,500	827
	Total	9100	9475	23000	6441

(c) & (d): Yes. GSI continuously upgrades the knowledge and skill of its geoscientists and upgrades its equipment of field survey and laboratories as per the global practice. Geoscientists of GSI are provided with the state-of-the-art training, the logistic support, latest field equipment and laboratory support for achieving the objectives of the projects or activity they are involved in as per the field season programmes. Besides, the government also encourages collaborations with global exploration agencies for knowledge sharing and technological upgradation.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.396 REGARDING MINERAL EXPLORATION ASKED BY SHRI HARI MANJHI FOR ANSWER ON 17.11.2016

Commodity wise Target vs Achievement of GSI for FS 2015-16 and Target for FS 2016-17

		Target vs Achievement for FS 2015-16							Target vs Achievement FS 2016-17			
Group	Commodity	No. of Programs	LSM in sq km		DM in sq km		Drilling in m		No. of Programs	LSM in sq km	DM in sq km	Drilling in m
			Target	Achvmt.	Target	Achvmt.	Target	Achvmt.				
Ferrous	Iron	13	624.00	730.00	7.34	6.70	12500	5150.05	24	Target: 4,934	Target: 154.24	Target: 1,65,135
	Manganese	2			3.50	3.50			8			
	Chromite / Chromium	2	50.00	50.00					2			
Non-Ferrous	Basemetal	25	835.00	872.00	11.95	12.18	17100	12022.60	25			
	Bauxite	5	50.00	50.00	6.50	6.55	1980	2022.25	12			
Precious	Gold	22	775.00	805.00	11.50	10.43	8106.70	6450.55	24			
	Diamond	9	50.00	50.00					4			
	PGE	8	400.00	400.00	1.50	1.50	2800.	2607.65	2			
	Cobalt	1	100.00	102.00					-			
Strategic	Tin, Tungsten, Molybdenum	8	200.00	208.00	8.90	9.05	3500	2492.85	6			
	REE & RM	14	935.00	946.00	6.50	6.90	1500	921.70	13			
Fertilizer	Potash	1	150.00	97.00			300	130.00	2			
	Glaucanite	3	200.00	200.00	1.00	1.00	1000	1015.00	2			
	Gypsum	3	225.00	227.00	1.00	1.00			-			
	Phosphorite	1	100.00	100.00	0.75	1.85	200	0.00	-			
Industrial	Dunite	1			5.00	5.00	800	757.95	-			
	Graphite	3	55.00	55.00	0.75	0.76	3000	3378.05	2			
	Limestone	8	225.00	204.00	38.50	38.05	11200	9870.75	22			
	Pyrophyllite	1	100.00	100.00					-			
	Andalusite	1			1.00	1.22	2000.00	1994.05	2			
	Sandstone	1	50.00	51.00					-			
	Dimension Stone	1	50.00	55.00					-			
	Glass Sand								1			
	Barite								1			
	Quartzite								1			
Coal & Lignite	Coal	28	699.98	614.98			47500.25	45149.11	19			
	Lignite						7800.00	8852.40				
TOTAL		160	5873.98	5916.98	105.69	105.69	1,21,286.95	1,02,814.96	173	T:4,934 Ach: 1161	T:154.24 Ach: 30.5	T:1,65,135 Ach: 71,364
Preliminary Mineral Investigation within EEZ (in sq km)		11	15,000			15,819			17	T:25,000 Ach:5891		

LSM – Large Scale Mapping, DM – Detailed Mapping, PGE – Platinum Group of Elements, REE & RM – Rare Earth Elements & Rare Metals, EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone