

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 354**  
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2021

**EXPLORATION OF NEW MINES**

†354. SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:  
SHRI ARUN SAO:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new mines are being discovered in the country by the Government for the development of mining activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Chhattisgarh;
- (c) the details of the development of mining activities in the country during the last five years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken including the survey of new mines by the Government for the development of mining sector?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) & (b): The development of any mining activity in the country is directly related to the number of potential blocks explored and resource augmented by the exploration agency which further leads to the auction of the blocks.

In last five years, from 2015-16 onwards, Geological Survey of India (GSI, an attached office under Ministry of Mines) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL, a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Mines) have handed over 143 (GSI-108 and MECL-35) exploration reports (G2/G3) to the State Government. The State-wise summary of the exploration reports handed over by GSI is at **Annexure I**.

Further, 24 exploration reports of Field Season 2019-20 of GSI have been finalized and shall be handed over to State Governments. In the current Field Season of 2020-21, GSI has taken a total of 70 G2/G3 exploration programmes all over India covering commodities like Gold, Base Metal, Iron Ore, Manganese, REE, PGE etc. MECL is carrying out exploration for various mineral commodities in 28 blocks for Filed Season 2020-21.

(c): As per the information received from respective State Governments, 105 mineral blocks have been auctioned in the country and a total of 61 mineral blocks are in pipeline for auction. The state-wise details are at **Annexure II**.

(d): Same as per the information given in (a) and (b).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Annexure I**

State-wise summary of exploration reports handed over by GSI to respective States

S No	Name of the State	Total G2/G3 Reports submitted to states by GSI from FS 2015-2019	Total G2/G3 Reports submitted to states by MECL from FS 2015-2020
1	Odisha	9	5
2	Jharkhand	2	2
3	Assam	2	-
4	Meghalaya	15	1
5	Uttar Pradesh	4	-
6	Haryana	5	-
7	Rajasthan	19	2
8	Chhattisgarh	9	5
9	Andhra Pradesh	4	-
10	Gujarat	4	-
11	Maharashtra	3	2
12	Telangana	1	3
13	Tamil Nadu	3	4
14	Kerala	1	-
15	Madhya Pradesh	18	6
16	Karnataka	9	5
Total		108 exploration reports (42 limestone, 24 base-metal, 15 iron ore, 6 bauxite, 4 manganese ore, 4 gold, 3 andalusite, 3 glauconite, 2 graphite, 2 REE, 1 potash, 1 PGE, 1 glass sand)	35 exploration reports (16 limestone, 4 gold, 3 manganese ore, 3 molybdenum, 2 iron ore, 2 copper ore, 1 bauxite, 1 base-metal, 1 potash, 1 tungsten, 1 coal)

## **Annexure II**

Mineral blocks auctioned and mineral blocks in pipeline for auction as per the information received from State Governments

S No	State	No. of mineral blocks auctioned	No. of mineral blocks in pipeline
1	Andhra Pradesh	5 mineral blocks	3 mineral blocks
2	Chhattisgarh	7 mineral blocks	6 mineral blocks
3	Gujarat	3 mineral blocks	13 mineral blocks
4	Jharkhand	7 mineral blocks	-
5	Karnataka	18 mineral blocks	3 mineral blocks
6	Madhya Pradesh	13 mineral blocks	7 mineral blocks
7	Maharashtra	13 mineral blocks	18 mineral blocks
8	Odisha	31 mineral blocks	11 mineral blocks
9	Rajasthan	8 mineral blocks	-
Total		105 mineral blocks (37 iron ore, 32 limestone, 7 bauxite, 6 iron ore and manganese ore, 6 gold, 5 graphite, 5 manganese ore, 3 chromite ore, 2 copper ore, 2 diamond)	61 mineral blocks (22 limestone, 17 bauxite, 10 iron ore, 3 manganese ore, 3 graphite, 2 copper ore, 1 base-metal, 1 rock phosphate, 1 REE-RM, 1 kyanite & sillimanite)