

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1682**  
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2021

**EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN NE STATES**

1682. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mineral exploration activities in North Eastern States specially in Assam are put on hold which is causing bad impact on development of the region;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether is it true that many mineral blocks are non-operational due to non clearance from environment and forest department;
- (d) if so, whether any steps have been taken to simplify Clearance Process to expedite the operations at mine blocks and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of all Mineral mine blocks in NE States specially in Assam, state-wise and location-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Geological Survey of India [GSI], an attached office of Ministry of Mines, has prioritized mineral exploration keeping in view of the thrust given by Government of India and accordingly GSI is conducting G2/G3/G4 stage mineral exploration for various mineral commodities with an aim to augment mineral resource in different parts of the country including North Eastern States (NER).

During the ensuing Field Season 2021-22, 16 nos. of mineral exploration projects have been taken up by GSI in NER and particularly in the state of Assam, two exploration projects have been taken and all projects are being executed without any hindrance.

(c) & (d): As per the information available with Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam, Govt. of Assam, the State Mines and Minerals Department has continuously been sitting for discussions with the State Environment and Forest Department to speed up the environment clearances. Since the constitution of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority as the competent authority for issuing Environment Clearance Certificate, the process for the same has been considerably simplified and now, the process has become faster.

(e): In practice, the resource bearing G2/G3 reports are being handed over to the concerned State Governments for auctioning of mineral concession.

During last five years, (2016-17 to 2020-21) GSI has carried out a total of 113 nos. of mineral exploration projects for various commodities under different stages (G2/G3/G4/RMT) in different parts of NER.

Since Field Season 2015-16 and after amendment of MMDR Act, 2015, the following 23 resource bearing G2/G3 reports of GSI, on various mineral commodities in parts of NER, have been handed over to the concerned State Governments for consideration in the auctioning process:

SL No	State	District	Name of the block	Commodity	Stage of exploration
1.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hill	Jalaphet Block	Limestone	G2
2.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hill	Um-Maju Block	Limestone	G2
3.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hill	Shyrwang Block	Limestone	G2

4.	Meghalaya	East Khasi hills	West Ishamati block	Limestone	G2
5.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hill	North of Larket block, west of Litang River	Limestone	G2
6.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hill	Shnongrim-Molasngi block	Limestone	G2
7.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hill	Tongseng-Shnongrim block	Limestone	G2
8.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hill	Mynthning block	Limestone	G2
9.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	Samasi-Pala block	Limestone	G3
10.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	Umkyrpong area Litang Valley	Limestone	G3
11.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	East of Laphet area, Litang Valley	Limestone	G3
12.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	South of Akshe area Litang Valley	Limestone	G3
13.	Assam	Nagaon&KarbiAnglong	Silpata-Bamuni-Chapanala-Borhola Block	Glass sand	G3
14.	Assam	Dhubri (erstwhile Goalpara)	Chandardinga area	Iron ore	G3
15.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	Akshe block, Litang Valley	Limestone	G3
16.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	South east of Akshe, Litang Valley	Limestone	G3
17.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	North Pala block, Litang Valley	Limestone	G3
18.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	Lamarsiang block	Limestone	G2
19.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	Khaidong-Shnongrim block	Limestone	G2
20.	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	South west of Mynthlu block	Limestone	G2
21.	Assam	Dima hasao	North Boro Hundong Block	Limestone	G3
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	West Siang	Tai-Tacidoni block	Graphite	G3
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	Upper Subansiri	Taliha Block	Graphite	G3

Recently, following the MEMC Rule 2021 (Amended MMDR Act 2021), GSI has handed over the following 2 potential Geological Memorandums pertaining to NER for auctioning as composite licence:

Sl. No.	State	District	Name of blocks (Geological Memorandum)	No of Blocks	Commodity
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Valley	NER_ARN_01_Endolin-Isholin_II	1	Graphite
2	Assam	Dima Hasao	NER_AS_01_Boro Hundong_II	1	Limestone

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