

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2942
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2022
MINERAL EXPLORATION

2942. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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:

(b) if so, the details of the mineral exploration targets along with the achievements during the year 2019-20 and the year 2020-21, mineral-wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the role being played by geologists in raising the level of exploration in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The formulation and execution of the mineral exploration programmes of Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of Ministry of Mines, are carried out in planned and time bound manner. All programmes are systematically evaluated at different levels and the same is approved in the Central Geological Programme Board (CGPB) meeting before initiation of the projects. As per annual field season program, GSI carries out 'reconnaissance survey' [G4], 'preliminary exploration' [G3] and 'general exploration' [G2] with an aim to augment resource for various mineral commodities.

During field season 2019-20 and 2020-21, GSI had taken up 338 and 180 nos. of G2/G3/G4 projects respectively for various mineral commodities. The details are tabulated in the Annexure.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the role played by geologists in raising the level of the exploration in the country. The geologists of the Geological Survey of India, Central Public Sector Undertakings such as Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited, State Government Departments of Geology and Mining, State Public Sector Enterprises and Private Sector exploration entities are playing a crucial role in carrying out various exploration programmes and identification of mineral resources. As a result of exploration activities done by geologists, the following have been achieved:

- i. The Obvious Geological Potential [OGP] area has increased from 5.71 to 6.88 lakh sq. kms.
- ii. A total of 180 nos. G2/G3 and 252 nos. G4 mineral blocks have been handed over to State Governments for auction.
- iii. A total of 6 G2/G3 reports for Platinum Group of Elements [2 nos.], Potash [2 nos.] and Molybdenum [2 nos.] have been given for the first time to State Governments for auction. Also, a G4 block of Potash has been handed over to State Government of Punjab for auctioning as a composite licence.

Annexure

Details of mineral exploration Project taken up during FS 2019-20 & 2020-21
(commodity-wise & stage-wise)

Field Season	2019-20		Field Season	2020-21	
Commodity	Target (No of projects)	Achievement (No of projects)	Commodity	Target (No of projects)	Achievement (No of projects)
Iron Ore	26	26	Iron Ore	6	6
Manganese	24	24	Manganese	14	14
Chromite/ Chromium	6	6	Chromite/ Chromium	2	2
Gold	30	30	Gold	21	20*
PGE	9	9	PGE	1	1
Diamond	12	12	Diamond	2	2
Base metals	81	81	Base metals	45	45
REE & RM	50	50	REE & RM	18	17*
Molybdenum	4	4	Molybdenum	3	3
Nickel	12	12	Nickel	7	7
Tungsten	8	8	Tungsten	10	10
Tin	1	1	Lithium	3	3
Limestone	18	18	Scandium	1	1
Lithium	3	3	Bauxite	7	7
Antimony	1	1	Barite	2	2
Bauxite	12	12	Graphite	7	7
Vanadium	3	3	Potash	6	6
Graphite	6	6	Phosphorite	3	3
Dunite	1	1	Coal	17	17
Potash	5	5	Lignite	3	3
Phosphorite	2	2	Shale Gas	2	2
Gypsum	2	2			
Decorative & Dimension Stone	1	1			
Heavy mineral	1	1			
Coal	17	17			
Lignite	2	2			
Shale Gas	1	1			
Total	338	338	Total	180	178*

Note: *2 items of NER (1 in Gold and 1 in REE) pertaining to FS: 2020-21 are running as spillover project during current FS 2022-23 for completion of remaining drilling. The delay in drilling is due to tough terrain condition and local disturbances. The remaining drilling target for both the blocks will be achieved by Aug, 2022.
