

National Mineral Awards – 2007

Coal, Lignite and Coal Bed Methane Discovery & Exploration

Dr. A. Balukkarasu, Assistant Geologist, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata and his teammates have carried out concept oriented exploration to discover lignite deposits in Mannargudi and Ramnad sub-basins of Tamilnadu. The integrated approach of basin analysis including interpretation of sub-surface, tectonic and geophysical data coupled with micro facies analysis and palaeotological data followed by them led to prognosticate the depositional environment and the disposition of the concealed palaeo-peatland in the area.

The painstaking work by Dr. Balukkarasu and his team lead to establishing economically significant lignite deposits in Eocene sediments. Their critical assessment of basin geometry aided by detailed exploration in virgin tracts of Misal-Tiyanur areas of Ramnad sub-basin have indicated that at least 400-500 km² area of Ramnad sub-basin is likely to hold potential lignite prospects. In addition to the delineation of 302 million tonnes of lignite deposits their efforts have also resulted in establishing 1172 million tonnes of lignite resources in southern and northern parts of the Mannargudi sub-basin.

Besides its utility in power sector, It will contribute in the socio- economic development of Ramnad and Mannargudi area.

In recognition of his valuable contribution in the field of Lignite and Discovery & Exploration, National Mineral Award - 2007, National Mineral Award - 2007 is conferred upon Dr. A. Balukkarasu. He shares this award with his co-workers P. Kurmaraguru, K. Bhaskaran and Dr. T. S. Giritharan.