

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3091  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2016**

**EXPLORATION OF LAND FOR MINING ACTIVITIES**

**3091. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT:**

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that only about 13% of the country's 575,000 square kilometers of land with geological potential has been explored, if so, the details and facts thereof;
- (b) the state-wise exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during the last three years for gold and the resultant progress achieved in the same; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for carrying out exploration activities in the country, State-wise?

**A N S W E R**

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

(a): Geological Survey of India [GSI] has covered almost the entire area of 31.4 lakh sq. km. of the country's mappable area by systematic geological mapping on 1:50,000 scale. On the basis of this, the geological potential area of 5.71 lakh sq. km. has been identified for scheduled non-fuel and non-coal major minerals. Further, GSI has launched National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) and National Geophysical Mapping (NGPM) programs. Of the identified geological potential area, GSI has covered 3.17 lakh sq km and 1.9 lakh sq km by NGCM and NGPM respectively. Private and public mineral exploration agencies launch mineral exploration programmes based on the above baseline data.

(b): During the last three years GSI has carried out gold exploration work in the states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. As a result of the exploration work of GSI, 9.8 million tonnes of gold resources were established in the state of Rajasthan (6.78 mt), Jharkhand (2 mt) and Karnataka (1.02 mt) during the field seasons 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

(c): The details of funds allocated and utilized by GSI for mineral exploration activities in the country during the last three years is given below:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Region	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Grant	Actual Expend.	Grant	Actual Expend.	Grant	Actual Expend.
Western	249.10	248.41	347.60	347.36	296.50	296.00
Eastern	203.50	203.56	353.45	353.30	603.72	600.47
Northern	47.00	46.75	84.50	82.92	117.50	115.22
Southern	266.50	266.46	309.00	307.76	548.84	555.15
Central	233.90	233.63	605.45	605.31	424.95	415.61
Northeastern	50.00	49.22	73.00	71.77	164.47	207.04
<b>GSI (As a whole)</b>	<b>1050.00</b>	<b>1048.03</b>	<b>1773.00</b>	<b>1768.42</b>	<b>2155.98</b>	<b>2189.49</b>

**Western Region:** Rajasthan and Gujarat.

**Eastern Region:** West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.

**Northern Region:** Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

**Southern Region:** Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala.

**Central Region:** Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**Northeastern**

**Region:** Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

The details of funds allocated and utilized by MECL for mineral exploration activities in the country during the last three years is given below:

(Rupees in Lakhs)

YEAR	EXPENDITURE		STATES IN WHICH WORK DONE
	Fund allocated	Fund Utilised	
2013-14	900	900	Rajasthan, Nagaland, Karnataka, Jharkhand & Meghalaya
2014-15	1600	1600	Rajasthan, Nagaland, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
2015-16	1690	1690	Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu

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