GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3348
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH AUGUST, 2015

EXPLORATION OF MINERALS

3348. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present mineral reserves in the country including titanium dioxide, mineral-wise and State/UT-wise;
(b) the details of production of various minerals including titanium dioxide during each of the last three years and the current year, mineral and State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the country has the capability of meeting the world's immediate requirement of titanium dioxide and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the said mineral resources have been least explored in the country and if so, the reasons thereof; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the explorations of various minerals in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a): State-wise and mineral-wise details of mineral reserves in the country including titanium bearing minerals is given in the Indian Mineral Year Book published by Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines). These details are also available on their official website (http://ibm.nic.in).

(b): As per available information, State-wise and mineral-wise details of the production of minerals covered under the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 during the last three years are at Annexure-I. The production of details of

The production of beach sand minerals including titanium bearing minerals by Indian Rare Earths Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy, in its operating units at Orissa Sands Complex, Odisha, Manavalakurichi, Tamil Nadu and Chavara, Kerala during the last three years are as under:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ilmenite</td>
<td>241139</td>
<td>208054</td>
<td>252976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zircon</td>
<td>10915</td>
<td>8778</td>
<td>10673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutile</td>
<td>9775</td>
<td>7878</td>
<td>9501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sillimanite</td>
<td>17250</td>
<td>16005</td>
<td>25254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garnet</td>
<td>34138</td>
<td>26010</td>
<td>29532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leucoxene</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>105</td>
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(c): The global demand for titanium dioxide pigment is estimated to be about 59 lakh tpa while the production is in excess of 60 lakh tpa. The production capacity of titanium dioxide in India is about 70,000 to 80,000 tonne per annum (tpa). There is global production surplus of titanium dioxide pigment over that of demand.

(d): No Madam. As stated in (a) above, one of the prime area of activities of Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) is survey and exploration of beach sand minerals, which contains Titanium minerals also. AMD has so far covered a major portion (about 60%) of the coastal tracts of India and continues further exploration in potential areas for locating Beach Sand Mineral deposits.

(e): The steps taken by the Government to enhance the exploration of various minerals in the country are given below:

i) 100% FDI is allowed in exploration under the automatic route for all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals.

ii) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been strengthened with manpower, skill development and state of the art equipments. GSI was restructured in October 2011 by creating 1353 technical posts. More than 400 geoscientists have been inducted in GSI since then. A state of the art Oceanographic Research Vessel (ORV) and a Heliborne Geophysical Survey System (HGSS) have been commissioned to enhance exploration capabilities of the GSI.

iii) GSI is carrying out scientific investigation for mineral resource assessment through modern and sophisticated exploration techniques including geomorphological and lineament mapping through study of satellite imageries, aero and ground geophysical studies and geochemical mapping. Integrated surveys for targeting concealed and deep-seated mineral deposits have also been taken up to improve the regional exploration for assessment of natural resources by infusion of latest state of art technology. Action have been initiated to augment mineral resources by exploration of concealed deposits, conservation of existing resources by zero waste mining and developing improved beneficiation process.

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