

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 748
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JULY, 2016
IMPLEMENTATION OF NMEP**

748. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of **MINES** be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1231 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 2016 and state:

- (a) the amount estimated for implementing the National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP) during the next five years and the mode of funding;
- (b) whether the National Geo-scientific Data Repository would be created to provide baseline data for targeting concealed mineral deposits;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) how many blocks have been identified for auctioning in the first phase, along with details?

A N S W E R

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

(a): The amount estimated for implementing National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP) in the next five years is about Rs.2116 crore. This is proposed to be funded from the regular annual budget of the Geological Survey of India, an attached office of Ministry of Mines, and additional grants including funds from National Mineral Exploration Trust and budgetary support by the Central Government.

(b) & (c): Yes. A National Geo-scientific Data Repository is proposed to be created to collate, process and interpret all baseline and mineral exploration information generated by various central and state government agencies, and mineral concession holders. The data will be maintained on a geospatial database and will be made available in public domain.

(d): Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines, has identified 100 potential blocks for auctioning in the first phase. The mineral-wise breakup of the identified blocks is given below:

Mineral	No. of Blocks	Mineral	No. of Blocks	Mineral	No. of Blocks
Iron Ore	6	Tin - Tungsten	5	Dunite	1
Manganese	5	Phosphate	1	Graphite	2
Limestone	8	PGE, Ni, Cr	7	Vanadium	1
Bauxite	1	Andalusite	1	Barium	1
Gold	21	Chromite	2	Glauconite	1
Basemetal	27	Diamond	6	Dolomite	1
REE & RM	3				

(f): For the first phase, 43 major mineral blocks have been notified across 8 States for auction. The mineral blocks of iron ore, limestone, bauxite, tungsten and gold, have been put up on auction by the various State Governments of Andhra Pradesh (6 blocks of limestone), Chhattisgarh (5 blocks out of which 2 are limestone and one block of gold), Karnataka (14 blocks of iron ore), Maharashtra (4 blocks out of which one is of bauxite, one for iron ore, one of limestone and one of tungsten), Odisha (3 blocks out of which 2 blocks are for limestone and one of iron ore) and Rajasthan (3 blocks of limestone).
