

Statement-II

The amount spent by GSI on Mineral Exploration (Detailed Mapping and Drilling) in the last three years and the current year

| (Rs. in lakhs) | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Region | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 (up to Feb'12) |
| Eastern Region | 640.76 | 548.22 | 539.02 | 54.49 |
| Central Region | 62.74 | 71.22 | 207.66 | 245.78 |
| Western Region | 133.01 | 123.75 | 118.50 | 131.90 |
| Southern Region | 189.87 | 151.90 | 307.26 | 213.56 |
| Northern Region | 130.21 | 118.94 | 109.65 | 63.49 |
| AMSE,Bangalore | 12.90 | 12.90 | - | 0.00 |
| North Eastern Region | 15.26 | 6.77 | 21.91 | 30.82 |
| TOTAL | 1184.75 | 1033.70 | 1304.00 | 740.04 |

Eastern Region: comprises of the states of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Central Region: comprises of the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

Western Region: comprises of the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat

Southern Region: comprises of the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa

Northern Region: comprises of the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh

AMSE Bangalore: Before introduction of HPC AMSE Wing with Headquarters stationed at Bangalore carried out work in different parts of the country. After introduction of HPC the AMSE Wing has been renamed as RSAS Division and it has been functionally merged with Southern Region.

North Eastern Region: comprises of the states of Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Sikkim.

Ban on export of chrome ORE

†546. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to State:

(a) whether, in view of the depleting reserves of chrome ore, Government proposes to impose complete ban on its export;

(b) if so, whether the export of chrome ore is directly impacting the steel industry; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take for protecting steel manufactures/industry and ensuring the availability of raw materials to this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) (a) As per available information, export of chrome ore is guided by Exim

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

policy of the country. The present production of chromite is sufficient to meet domestic consumption as well as export requirements. There is no proposal by the Ministry to impose complete ban on export of chrome ore.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Survey of bauxite/iron-Ore

547. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of MINES to be pleased to State:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) engaged in the survey of bauxite and iron-ore reserves and their mining in the country including Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand;

(b) the number of PSUs out of these running in profit and loss;

(c) whether a High Level Committee constituted by the Planning Commission has made any recommendation to remove the current provision of reservation of minerals and metal areas to PSUs only and supplying the raw materials to small and medium mineral based industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the follow-up action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the available information 15 (fifteen) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are engaged in mining and exploration of iron ore and bauxite in the country. Details of Public Sector Undertakings running in profit and loss are not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) The High Level Committee constituted by the Planning Commission had recommended that PSUs of the Central and State Governments be treated at par with private sector companies in grant of mineral concessions, and reservation provisions for PSUs for exploration and mining should be modified so as to limit the scope of such reservation to meet the requirements of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of raw material. The Government has introduced a draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill 2011 in Lok Sabha on 12th December 2011, presently referred to the Standing Committee on coal and steel, which provides for reservation of mineral bearing areas for purpose of conservation, and giving weightage in grant of prospecting licence or mining lease in notified area to such applicants who have committed ore linkage through long term agreements with domestic industry (including SMEs).

Sharp drop of aluminium prices

548. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that sharp drop in London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium prices has made it unviable for several producers to shut down their smelters across the country;