

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (d) The technology and investment required for exploration and mining varies for different minerals and areas. Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of technology, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and commercial considerations. The National Mineral Policy (NMP), 2008 enunciates policy measures in order to reduce impediments to investment and technology flows in the mining sector in India. The NMP, 2008 enunciates that mine development and mineral conservation as governed by the rules and regulations will be on sound scientific basis, with the regulatory agencies, viz. Indian Bureau of Mines and the State Directorates, closely interacting with R&D organizations, and scientific and professional bodies to ensure optimal Mining Plans. In addition, the Policy seeks to strengthen the indigenous industry for the manufacture of mining equipments and machinery. The NMP, 2008 envisages streamlining and simplifying the procedures in grant of mineral concessions in order to attract investment including FDI, into the mining sector in India. The policy seeks to facilitate import of mining equipment and machinery.

Technology offer by Australia in mining sector

2242. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Australia has shown keen interest in developing economic ties with India in mines and minerals sector by offering technology and mining requirement, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the status of investment of India in Australia in different sectors; and
- (c) the action plan to boost this investment further in the above country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Yes Sir. The issues relating to mines and minerals sectors for the benefit of both the countries *i.e* Australia and India are being discussed in the meetings of India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Energy and Minerals.

- (b) Sector-wise status of India's investment in Australia for last five years is as follows:

(Amount in US\$ Million)

Sl. No.	Sectors	2009- 2010	2010- 2011	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014
1.	Agriculture and Mining	29.16	15.42	33.66	14.61	11.48
2.	Community, Social and Personal Services	0.74	0.62	137.7	6.47	2.36
3.	Construction	31.56	5	67.97	79.17	9.72
4.	Financial, Insurance and Business Services	7.98	112.4	52.72	44.61	2.91
5.	Manufacturing	7.15	47.24	16.69	32.11	12.12
6.	Transport, Storage and Communication Services	-	-	4.21	0.21	-
7.	Wholesale, Retail Trade, Restaurants and Hotels	1.28	2.26	0.14	0.16	0.04

Source: RBI

(c) The 8th meeting of the India-Australia JWG was held in New Delhi on 12 June, 2013. JWG *inter-alia* discussed recent trade and investment developments, recent energy and mineral policy developments and requirements and availability of resources in both the countries. The JWG agreed to Work Programs for activities between 2013 and 2015 for five Action Plans relating to Mining and Minerals, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Coal, Power and Renewal Energy which were signed separately by the concerned Ministries of the Government of India with the concerned authorities of the Australian Government.

Investment in mining sector

2243. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed in the Budget 2014-15 to amend the present law to promote investment in mining sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether declaration has been made in the budget to promote sustainable mining work; and