

3. A National Geoscientific Data Repository (NGDR) will be set up to collate all baseline and mineral exploration information generated by various central and State Government agencies and also mineral concession holders and maintain these on a geospatial database.
4. The Government will establish a National Centre for Mineral Targeting (NCMT) in collaboration with geoscientific organisations, academia and industry to target concealed and deep-seated mineral deposits.
5. The Government will carry out auctioning of identified exploration blocks for exploration by private sector on a suitable revenue sharing basis in case their exploration leads to auctionable resources. In case no auctionable resources are discovered, exploration expenditure will be reimbursed on normative cost basis.

(b) Under the NMEP, identification and delineation of exploration blocks will be carried by the State Governments with assistance from Geological Survey of India (GSI) and other agencies. The exploration blocks will be allotted to private explorers through open competitive bidding/auction process by the State Government with active support from Ministry of Mines and its central agencies. Further, State Governments have a key role to play in building up a steady stream of auctionable mineral prospects. They are required to take mineral exploration reports prepared by GSI or other agencies and build on them to carry out G3 or G2 levels of exploration. Further, States need to build up the exploration capabilities of their staff.

(c) The National Mineral Exploration Policy has been released for the first time by the Central Government. The policy not only facilitates greater role of private sector in carrying out exploration through a revenue sharing mechanism but also *inter-alia* proposes to carry out aerogeophysical mapping of the country, making available baseline data free of cost as public good, collate and share data of various exploration agencies, and provide a structured framework for targeting deep-seated and concealed mineral deposits.

Purchase of ships by SCI

*89. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) embarked on reckless purchase of ships when the costs were high;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what is the total loss due to this ill-conceived ship purchase plan; and
- (d) who were the beneficiaries of the huge kick-backs involved in the deal?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) Sir, No fact has come to light to indicate that Shipping Corporation of India has embarked on reckless purchase of ships when the costs were high.

- (b) to (d) Does not arise.

Dumping of chemical wastes

*90. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any complaints have been received or any survey is done to find out how many industrial units are dumping their chemical wastes under the ground, causing contamination of ground water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether online monitoring system of tracking industrial effluents is being done of effective monitoring by State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committee and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any pilot project has been undertaken to rehabilitate polluted sites for improvement in ground water quality and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has not conducted any survey to ascertain the numbers of industrial units which are dumping their chemical waste under the ground leading to contamination of groundwater. However, the Ministry is implementing a World Bank aided project namely Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project (CBIPMP). One of the project outcomes is the identification of contaminated sites under which 100 such sites have been identified for further investigation and remediation, if required. There is no conclusive information about these 100 contaminated sites with further evidence of groundwater contamination. However, based on the preliminary investigation, 64 sites have been identified as sites with soil and/or groundwater contamination.