

District-wise resources of monazite in Andhra Pradesh are given below.

Sl. No.	District	No. of Deposits	Monazite resources (Million Tonnes)
1.	Srikakulam	7	0.61
2.	Vizianagaram	1	0.08
3.	Visakhapatnam	2	0.10
4.	East Godavari	6	0.87
5.	West Godavari	2	0.69
6.	Krishna	4	0.92
7.	Guntur	2	0.18
8.	Prakasam	1	0.01
9.	Nellore	1	0.26
	Total	26	3.72

(c) Yes, Sir. The resources in the State of Andhra Pradesh constitute 31% of the total resources of 11.93 million tonnes.

(d) There is no dependency on other countries for thorium.

North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation

12. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited;

(b) the total number of farmers supported by the Corporation; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance the agricultural procurement, processing and marketing infrastructure of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) North Eastern Regional Agricultural

Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC), *inter alia*, facilitates processing of horticulture produce; assists processing units to market their products; and helps in developing linkages of farmers with the market.

(b) While such data is not centrally maintained, NERAMAC in pursuance of the objectives mentioned above, has provided support to large number of farmers, particularly those growing pineapples, ginger and large cardamoms.

(c) NERAMAC has engaged with some Self-Help Groups and farmers groups to serve as an aggregator and provide marketing support to them. It has also undertaken marketing of processed items sourced from local entrepreneurs.

Promotion of art, culture, food and hand made products

13. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by Government to promote art and culture of the north eastern region throughout the country; and

(b) the details of steps being taken to promote food and hand made products made by the artisans of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Government is providing financial assistance to State Governments in North Eastern Region and to some organizations to promote art and culture of the North Eastern Region. This include, *inter alia*, songs and dances of North East in Delhi and Mumbai and North East Cultural Festivals. North East Zone Cultural Centre is organizing cultural programmes, particularly, dances of North East in various parts of the country. Regional language festivals as well as children's film festivals, exclusively dedicated to the North Eastern Region are also being organised.

(b) Government is providing assistance for awareness generation and training of artisans /weavers; Trade Promotion of Handlooms & Handicrafts of North Eastern Region by providing stalls to artisans /weavers in Exhibitions/Expos/Craft Bazaars/Emporia all over India. Food of the North Eastern Region has also been promoted in some such events.

Access to improved meteorological advisory service by farmers

†14. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.