Discovery of mineral reserves in Assam

1047. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several mineral reserves have been discovered recently in various parts of Assam and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these reserves have been auctioned by the State Government;

(c) if so, the details of money that the auction fetched to the State Government; and

(d) whether Government intends to direct the Assam Government to intensify its exploration and drilling operations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has taken up 3 mineral exploration programmes during the current Field Season Programme 2018-19 in the State of Assam. The details are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>District with No. of programmes taken up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tungsten</td>
<td>Karbi Anglong 1 Programme Kamrup (Metro) - 1 Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rare Earth Elements</td>
<td>Kamrup (Metro) - 1 Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Mines, has also carried out exploration for various mineral deposits in Assam. The mineral-wise and district-wise details are as follows:
### Written Answers to Unstarred Questions

- **Sl. No.** | **Mineral** | **District and Resource established**
- 1. | Coal | Dibrugarh [5.293 million tonnes (MT)], Sivasagar [4.478 MT], Tinsukhia [124.39 MT]
- 2. | Oil Shale | Tinsukhia and Dibrugarh, Assam + Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh [932 MT]
- 3. | Glass Sand | Nagaon [320.53 MT]

(b) and (c) As per information available with this Ministry, no mineral blocks have been auctioned by the State Government of Assam.

(d) The Field Season Programmes of GSI are finalized after discussions with stakeholders including State Geological Departments.

### Scholarships for minorities

1048. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme for scholarships exclusively for students from minority communities;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) details regarding pre-matric, post-matric and merit-cum-means components of such scholarship schemes; and

(d) details regarding budget earmarked for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) The government during the last five years, has provided 3.14 crore scholarships for educational empowerment of students especially girls from amongst the six centrally notified Minorities namely, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi. A minimum of 30% seats are earmarked for girl students in each scheme, however, the share of girls students beneficiaries is more than 50%. Since 2015, the scholarship schemes are being implemented through DBT mode to improve the efficiency and bring transparency by removing duplicity and stopping pilferages.

The details of these scholarship schemes are as under:-

(i) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme- The scholarship is provided to minority students studying in class I to X in Government/recognized Private schools. Minimum 30%