

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:381
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2003
SURVEY ON DIAMOND AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Geological Survey of India (GSI) has discovered diamonds and other precious metals during the last three years in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that GSI has not reached the tribal belts of the States where precious metals are available;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by GSI in consultation with State Governments for the discovery of precious metals in the tribal areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.381 REGARDING SURVEY ON DIA AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS ASKED BY SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI FOR ANSWER ON 19.08.2003.

(a) & (b) : Yes Sir. Geological Survey of India has carried out investigations for the discovery of Diamonds and other precious metals in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years. The investigations for diamond were carried out in the States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh; for Gold in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra and for Platinum Group of Metals (PGM) in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra.

In Andhra Pradesh, during the last three years, the search for Kimberlite/Lamproite bodies (source rocks for Diamonds), in Krishna, Khammam, Nalgonda, Kurnool and Mehboobnagar districts led to the discovery of 30 kimberlite/lamproite bodies in Krishna District and 3 kimberlite pipes in Mehboobnagar district. Two gem-quality diamonds weighing 3.90 carats have been recovered from the Wajrakakur Field, Anantpur district.

In Andhra Pradesh, additional resources of about 8.62 million tonnes of Gold ore with 1.62 to 4.65 grams per tonne of gold have been resourced by GSI in Dona Sector in Kurnool district and PGM investigations have been carried out in Krishna, Khammam and Prakasam districts during the last three years.

(c) & (d) : No Sir. GSI carries out survey and exploration for search of precious metals in different parts of the country including tribal areas.

(e) : GSI draws its survey and exploration programmes in consultation with the State Governments through the State Geological Programming Boards. These programmes are duly approved by the Central Geological Programming Board. Representatives of the State Governments are members of this Board. However, the occurrence of precious metals depends upon the geological and structural set up in the areas.

Consequently GSI has conducted surveys for diamonds and precious metals in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh.