

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2465  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006  
MODERNISATION  
Singh Shri Dushyant

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to mechanise and modernize the exploration and production of zinc and lead;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard particularly in respect of Rajasthan?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) & (b): Under the Ministry of Mines, Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are two government organizations engaged in mineral exploration activities. GSI is equipped with state of the art geological, geochemical and geophysical instruments to modernize its exploration activities. MECL has so far completed exploration of 14 lead-zinc prospects located in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttaranchal & Sikkim.

At present, Hindustan Zinc Limited(HZL), a disinvested company, is engaged in production of zinc and lead, while, another private company, namely, Binani Industries Limited(BIL) is producing zinc only. HZL has intimated that they have a clear focus on modernizing exploration and production of lead and zinc. HZL has increased its zinc production capacity from 2,30,000 MT to 4,11,000 MT per annum recently in Rajasthan.

(c): MECL is carrying out lead & zinc exploration activities in two prospects of Rajasthan. MECL is also carrying out exploration for zinc on behalf of M/s. Hindustan Zinc Limited. Geological Survey of India(GSI) also has taken up one project for exploration of lead-zinc in Rajasthan.