

CHAPTER-15 MINING

15.1 Minerals are valuable natural resources being finite and non renewable. Besides catering to the energy requirements of the world, they are valuable inputs for diverse industrial activities. Natural endowment of minerals increases the potential wealth of a country but their distribution across the world varies substantially. As per Report on Mineral Production by International Organizing Committee for the World Mining Congress, during 2015, India ranked 5th amongst the mineral producer countries on the basis of volume of production. However, it ranked 9th on the basis of value of Mineral production during 2015. The geological availability of minerals is relatively high, but both geopolitical and economic challenges can hypothetically lead to a shortage of mineral resources.

15.2 The Ministry of Mines is responsible for the survey and exploration of all minerals (other than Natural Gas and Petroleum), for mining and metallurgy of Non-ferrous metals like Aluminium, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Gold, Nickel, etc., and for the administration of the Mines and Minerals, other than Coal, Natural Gas and Petroleum. **Geological Survey of India, GSI**, another subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, helps through assessment of geological and regional mineral resources of the country through scientific surveys and research and for locating mineral resources & geological mapping. **Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited MECL** is a public sector company, which undertakes detailed exploration of various minerals / ores by drilling and exploratory mining. It is also engaged in proving the existence of reserves for their eventual exploitation. Exploration is taken up both on a promotional basis on behalf of the Government of India and on contractual basis for other agencies)

15.3 Source of data :- Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, is the principal government agency responsible for compiling exploration data and mineral maps and for providing access to the latest information in respect of mineral resources in respect of **Major Minerals under Mineral Conservation & Development Rules, MCDR 1988**. Besides statistical activities, IBM offers technical expertise and proven experience in the fields of geology, mine planning and feasibility studies. The geological services of IBM include survey and preparation of mine plans, preparation of geological plans, preliminary geological appraisal of mineral properties, including the formulation of an initial scheme of detailed exploration with estimate of cost and preliminary reconnaissance, quick survey to determine potential areas out of large properties etc.

List of Tables

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1	15.1	Number of reporting mines in India (All India & State-wise)
2	15.2	All India Mining Production (All India & State-wise)
3	15.3	Index Of Mineral Production (Quantum Index)

Source & References: Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines.