

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.779
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2013

RARE EARTH IN THE COUNTRY

779. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has the State-wise data regarding the total quantity of rare earths available in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government has plan to scientifically mine the rare earths for the purpose of producing value added products, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

- (a) Yes Sir. The State-wise and mineral-wise details of the rare earth deposits established by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, as on September 2013 is as indicated below:

(Figures in Million tonnes)

State	Ilmenite+ Leucoxene	Rutile	Zircon	Monazite	Garnet	Sillimanite	Total Heavy Minerals
Odisha	96.44	4.47	3.25	2.41	50.87	51.74	209.18
Andhra Pradesh	163.05	10.25	11.94	3.72	66.00	72.29	327.25
Tamil Nadu	179.02	8.00	10.20	2.46	46.97	37.41	284.06
Kerala	145.70	8.41	7.83	1.90	4.46	62.80	231.10
Maharashtra	3.74	-	0.01	-	-	-	3.75
Gujarat	2.77	0.02	0.01	-	0.03	-	2.83
West Bengal	2.05	0.19	0.39	1.22	-	1.65	5.50
Bihar	0.73	0.01	0.08	0.22	-	0.08	1.12
Total	593.50	31.35	33.71	11.93	168.33	225.97	1064.79

- b) Yes, sir. Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) produces monazite which is a prescribed substance under Atomic Energy Act 1962 and processes the same to produce mixed Rare Earth compounds. IREL has set up a 10,000 tpa monazite processing plant at Odisha to produce mixed rare earth chloride and at Aluva, Kerala to produce separated high pure rare earth products. An MoU has been signed between IREL, BARC, DMRL & International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI) for production of value added products of Rare Earths.