

2.14. Mining & Metallurgy

Geology and Mining

2.14.1. Minerals constitute the vital raw materials for many industries and are a major resource for development of the State. As the country is endowed with requisite mineral resources, it is imperative to achieve the best use of available mineral resources through scientific methods of mining, beneficiation and optimum economic utilisation. The important minerals of commercial value in Tamil Nadu are lignite, granite, limestone, iron ore and natural gas. Other minerals which occur and are exploited in Tamil Nadu are Clay, Bauxite, Gypsum, Quartz and Feldspar. In the exploitation of minerals, environmental protection and mineral conservation are given importance. The mineral administration and exploitation and promotional activities in Tamil Nadu are handled by the Department of Geology and Mining. Mineral administration includes in its ambit mineral concessions for both major and minor minerals, prevention of illicit mining and unlawful transportation of minerals.

2.14.2. The major thrust of exploration is to identify new occurrences of minerals in the State. Modern exploration techniques along with conventional methods are being adopted for evaluation of various mineral deposits. In addition geo-technical studies in areas of Nilgiris and Kodaikanal hills are carried out for protecting the environment and ecology of the hilly tract. Technical guidance are furnished to the District Administration for developmental activities. Reappraisal of limestone occurrences in southern and western districts of Tamil Nadu is taken up. The exploration has been completed in Thoothukudi District and commenced in Tirunelveli District with simultaneous mapping, sampling, drilling and chemical analysis. Assessment of granite deposits worth exploitation were carried out in Salem and Dharmapuri districts.

2.14.3. Mineral resources located and evaluated by the Department formed the basis for setting up of Government Undertakings like TAMIN, TANCEM and TANMAG, besides private sector mineral based industries in the State.

Tamil Nadu Mineral Limited (TAMIN)

2.14.4. TAMIN is was set up in 1978 with the objective of commercially exploiting workable resources of deposits of various mineral resources through systematic and scientific method of mining and also to provide job opportunities to the rural people. Currently TAMIN is exploiting large scale deposits of black, paradiso white and other coloured granites and major minerals like graphite, quartz, feldspar, limestone, silica sand & vermiculite. For the year 2006-07,TAMIN is expected to achieve a target production of 49705 Cbm. The sales targetfor 2006-2007 is fixed at Rs.120.92 crore.

2.14.5. The agreed outlay for the Mineral Sector for the year 2007-08 is Rs.1.06 crore.