

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Bauxite is the principal ore for the production of aluminium, which is one of the most important non-ferrous metals with wide applications in various sectors. Aluminium has become an integral part of our every day life. It's requirement is ever increasing for domestic appliances, transmission of power, transport, defence equipment and packaging.

The per capita consumption of aluminium in India is barely 0.60 kg, very much below the world average which is 4 kg. In advanced countries like U.S.A., Japan and Hungary it is 29.4 Kg, 18.6 Kg, 16.9 Kg respectively.

India is endowed with abundant reserve of Bauxite (3037 Million Tonnes) holding fifth position in the world. All other essential inputs for production of aluminium are also available in plenty and there is tremendous potential for producing electrical energy required for the production of aluminium¹. Therefore aluminium is the only non-ferrous metal in which India has the capability of not only attaining self sufficiency but also becoming a major exporter from the eastern hemisphere, if the potential available is fully and systematically tapped and utilised².

In this monograph various aspects of Bauxite viz., geology, exploration, reserves, Production and mining in India and World, beneficiation, uses, specifications, consumptions and future out look and prospects, have been covered in detail.

The trade in Bauxite, including world trade and prices, has been dealt in a separate publication entitled 'Bauxite-A Market Survey' to be brought out by this department.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Agarwal A.K. Exploit the Aluminium potential. Minerals Metal Review, Aug. 1988.
2. Pantulu K.V.B. Prospects for Export of Bauxite, Aluminium from India. FIM I Conference for Marketing of Minerals. Bangalore 14 - 16 Feb. 1991.