

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Minerals play a vital role in the evolution of civilization and industrial economy of mankind. Since pre-historic time, minerals were the backbone in various stages of human civilization. Mineral resources differs from any other resources in the sense of that they are finite and non-renewable. There judicious use and intelligent conservation are very essential for the very survival of human civilization. In Indian context, it can be seen that we have a fairly large variety of mineral deposits and our endowment is quite adequate with exception of few deficient minerals. Considering the ever-increasing population, growth rate of economy and demand, these mineral resources are bound to get exhausted sometime in future. Thus the knowledge of endowment of mineral resources and their effective management are of utmost importance in order to provide an uninterrupted sustainable supply of minerals to meet the domestic demand of the industries as well as for foreign trade in order to boost the national economy. Accordingly, numerous initiatives have been undertaken by government to boost mining sector. In this competitive market scenario, value of commercial intelligence is of utmost importance. With this point of view and Charter of Functions, Indian Bureau of Mines undertakes periodic updation of mineral inventory.

The last updation was completed as on 01.04.2015 for 71 minerals. Since the government of India had declared minor minerals vide notification dated 10.02.2015 in addition to the already declared minor minerals, the data were collected for 46 major minerals covered for updation of NMI as on 01.04.2020 leaving aside minor minerals from the list of 71 minerals due to administrative and technical issues of the same. During the exercise of preparation and updation of NMI, an attempt has been made to accommodate the available information of auctioned blocks supplied by various government agencies. The information of auctioned block(s) which have not been executed has been maintained in NMI under freehold category and will be shifted to the suitable category after their execution in next NMI. The data for preparation and updation of NMI is being collected on non-statutory basis and the same was affected due to outbreak of pandemic noble Corona Virus.

In order to present mineral resources in our country at a global platform, the mineral inventory has absorbed 'United Nations Framework Classification' (UNFC) since year 2000. UNFC is a generic principle-based system in which quantities are classified on the basis of three fundamental criteria i.e. economic viability, feasibility study and geological knowledge of the deposit, by using a numeric codification. A brief explanatory note on UNFC has been included in this publication for ready reference of the readers.

Indian Bureau of Mines maintained a fully computerized database on National Mineral Inventory of 46 major minerals. The information generated from this database is utilized specifically for policy planning by government and for the benefit of mining and mineral industries at large. Indian Bureau of Mines disseminates the mineral resource data through its various publications, especially through its flagship publication 'Indian Minerals Yearbook'. The 'National Mineral Inventory at a Glance' is aimed to provide a quick browser of the country's resources. It provides reserves/ resources of minerals as per UNFC. The figures in tabular forms contain terminologies and requisite three digit codes applicable to UNFC.

The main sections of the publication comprising reserves/ resources as on 1.4.2020(P) are (i) India (Total): All minerals, (ii) State- All minerals occurring in a state, (iii) Mineral (Total): India with state wise breakup and (iv) Summary- All minerals without terminologies and codes. The present publication is the fifth edition of National Mineral Inventory at a Glance as on 1.4.2020(P) prepared on the basis of the NMI updated as on 1.4.2020(P) by IBM for 46 important major minerals. It will be handy to users and act as a ready reference to unfold the broad scenario of country's resources of forty five major minerals.