

Unique Scope for Mineral Based Industries in Odisha

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Abstract

India since its independence is engaged in locating and mining the mineral resources and setting up various mineral based industries to meet the growing needs of the country as well as to export some of the minerals and also their value added products to earn more foreign exchange. Odisha is considered to be the store house of most of the mineral resources of the country. As a matter of fact, the number of mineral based industries in the state is not incommensurate with the resources available. The state is not only fortunate to have large amounts of various major mineral resources but also has other important resources like land, water, power, cheap labor etc. to develop the mineral based industries. Further, its 480 km of coastal line with Bay of Bengal, is not only a great asset for developing various industries in the coastal region but also importing some essential raw materials as well as exporting the high valued mineral based products to other countries through the sea route. In this paper, the unique scope for developing the mineral based industries in Odisha has been highlighted. The present scenario and draw backs in the growth of some major industries like Aluminium, Sponge iron, Alloy steels, some important nonferrous metals and their ferro alloys have been described. The ways and means for developing these industries have been briefly described and discussed. It is emphasized that, bringing proper coordination amongst the concerned state government departments and the industries, effecting the socio economic development programmes for the displaced families and giving high priority to implementation of environment management plan, the mineral based industries of Odisha can develop immensely.

Key words: Odisha with rich mineral resources, unique scope for mineral based industries, slow progress, steps for facilitating the growth of mineral based industries, environment friendly best available technology, Environment Management Plan and CSR programmes.