

# Mineral Resources

The NER is quite rich in respect of its deposit of mineral resources. Available mineral resources in this region include coal, petroleum crude, natural gas, lime stone, siliminite, dolomite, uranium, china clay, kaolin, fuller's earth, feldspar etc. Though a huge quantity of coal is available in the NER, the coal has high sulphur content and hence is not fit for use in power generation. Among the various states of this region, the maximum amount of coal is produced in Assam and Meghalaya. Besides the substantial reserves of oil and natural gas in Assam, small reserves of petroleum crude is also available in the Changleng district of Arunachal Pradesh and in Baramura area in Tripura. Total current reserve of crude oil in the proven oil fields of NER is estimated at 158 million tones.

NER is well blessed by nature in respect of natural gas too. Natural gas is available in Assam and Tripura. Total reserve of natural gas in the entire region is estimated at about 23000 million cubic meter. In spite of having a huge quantity of natural gas, the NER could utilize only a very insignificant portion of the same leading to flaring up of huge quantity of natural gas regularly. Digboi Refinery of IOC (AOD) has been using natural gas for over four decades for firing of boilers and later for generation of electric power. Assam Gas Company Ltd. is also supplying natural gas through its pipeline to various tea gardens of Assam for use in tea processing, Numrup Thermal Power Station for power generation, to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd. for production of fertilizer, Assam Petrochemicals Ltd, Numrup for production of methanol and to NRL for refining of crude. Gas so produced by ONGCL at Baskandi and Adamitila in Barak Valley is utilized for generating power by private generation Co. (DLF Power Ltd.) and in the tea gardens. Abundant quantity of non-associated natural gas is also available in Tripura. Of this only a small portion, about 25% is utilized for generation of electricity. ONGCL has a proposal to install a gas turbine power plant of 35 MW installed capacity at Rokhia (Tripura).

In NER, adequate quantity of limestone is available on the basis of which a few cement factories have come up in the region. Sikkim Mining Corporation has been extracting Copper, Zinc and Lead concentrates in minor quantities.

## Mineral Resources of Different States of N.E. Region:

States	Minerals	Key Points
Arunachal Pradesh	Coal, Limestone, Petroleum, Dolomite	The state has a substantial deposit of Minerals, which includes petroleum (Crude) coal, dolomite and limestone. The production of petroleum is 44,000 MT (approx).
Assam	Coal, Limestone, Petroleum, Granite, Silimanite, Iron ore, Quartzite, Feldsper, Clay, Natural Gas, Oil	Assam has a host of mineral deposit among which coal, oil and natural gas have only been commercially exploited. The coal reserve is estimated at 371 million tons and the production rate of crude oil is estimated 4.80 mm tons per annum. Assam has potential to tap natural gas @ 5.93% million cubic meters per day. Assam is therefore rich in energy. Of the 463 million tons of reserve of limestone, over 400 million tons are located in Umrangshu which therefore has almost all the cement plants of the region.
Manipur	Chromite, limestone	The state accounts for very little extractable mineral. Although reserve of copper, coal, iron, nickel, as well as petroleum oil / natural gas are reported, no estimation or prospecting has been actually undertaken, There are however deposits of semi-precious stones like Lapis Lazoli, Serpentine rocks and Jades, which are being extracted.
Meghalaya	Coal, Limestone,	The state has a vast deposit of coal at a estimated reserve of 564



Tripura	866421	864000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Source: Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines</i>										

**Mineral Production in NER-During 2002-03: Quantity - in the tonnes**

Value - in the tonnes

State	Total Fuels		Total Mettalic Minerals		Total Non-Mettalic Minerals		Total of All Minerals Value
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
Arunachal Pradesh	75	413980	-	-	-	-	415503
Assam	7189	30193865	-	-	555	122821	30323068
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	2432
Meghalaya	4406	2753750	-	-	239	53103	2820596
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	922
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	755
Sikkim	-	-	NA	5852	-	-	5852
Tripura	446	802800	-	-	-	-	818497

*Source: Basic Statistics of NER 2006*

**State-wise Consumption of Salt in NER: (In ' 000 MT)**

States	2002	2003	2004
Arunachal Pradesh	6.9	2.6	7.0
Assam	243.1	232.7	273.4
Manipur	2.3	4.7	2.3
Mizoram	0.9	4.6	4.6
Meghalaya	8.5	7.0	4.7
Nagaland	9.2	11.4	9.1
Sikkim	3.0	2.6	6.9
Tripura	14.3	33.0	21.1

*Source: indiastate.com*