

While purchases of machinery and equipment may be postponed for a later period, the maintenance of the current equipment in place cannot. Maintenance expenses for these equipment in place may even increase depending on their age. Thus, the lower decline in purchases of spare parts relative to that of mining machinery and equipment could be partly explained by this contention.

Chapter Notes

- [1] Large bulk of ore bodies are divided into rectangular blocks with a long vertical dimension. The blocks are undercut to induce caving under their own weight and the ore is usually drawn from them at the same rate so as to prevent dilution from waste rock on the margins of the ore body (Mikesell, 1979).
- [2] Frothers also reduce the wettability of certain minerals, enabling them to be attached to air bubbles so as to be floated (Mikesell, 1979).
- [3] The smelting and refining activities are however, classified under the manufacturing sector.
- [4] A breakdown of raw materials and supplies costs according to the cost items just mentioned is not available. Some ideas on the importance of these cost items can be gleaned from an earlier study.
A study by the German Development Institute (1980) shows a breakdown of raw materials and supplies cost (see Table 2.7). The cost of spare parts comprised 30% of raw materials cost. Also, about a third of raw materials cost are imported.
- [5] A breakdown of raw materials and supplies cost for primary gold operations is shown in Table 2.8. Cost of spare parts was a little less than half of the total while the cost of wood and timber was 22%.
- [6] This includes expenditures on land, buildings and minesite structures, machinery and equipment.