

Over the period 1987-92, mineral production grew at an annual average rate of 5.6 per cent. According to the Eighth Five-year Plan, output over the period 1992-97 is targeted to grow by a greater rate for most metals. For illustrative purposes, iron ore output is projected to grow by 41 per cent, aluminum by 27.4 per cent, and refined copper by 20.1 per cent.

### **Mineral Producing Regions of India**

Mineral bearing rock in commercial quantities is widely distributed across India (see Map 1). Mineralization is concentrated in a wide belt cutting across the sub-continent from the south-west to the north-east, and in Rajasthan in the north-west. Figure 2 summarizes the state-wise location of major commodities produced in India.