

Iron Ore

Major Producers

The Steel Authority of India (SAIL) (Government of India)
National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) (Government of India)
Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (TISCO) (Private)
Kudremukh Iron ore Co. Ltd. (Government of India)
Orissa Mining Development Corporation (State government owned)

Output/Trade

The 1992 Report of the Task Force on Iron Ore projects rapid growth in the domestic demand for iron ore from 53.3 million tonnes in 1996/97 to 75.2 million tonnes in 2001/02. Currently, recoverable reserves are estimated at about 12.7 billion tonnes, of which 10.3 billion tonnes are haematite. The major producing states are Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka (magnetite), and Goa.

About 90 per cent of domestic demand is from the integrated steel plants. However the sponge iron industry is projected to grow rapidly.

Iron ore is a major export commodity and foreign exchange earner. About 60 per cent of production is exported, though this may decrease if domestic demand projections are realized.

Prospects

The Iron Ore Task Force observes that "fairly sizable" investments in new mines, as well as expansion of existing ones, will be required to meet projected demand. Constraints to development may include restrictions on mining on forested land, and capacity limits on transportation infrastructure. The Task Force also notes that "large investments may be required so as to upgrade mining equipment, use cleaner technologies, and introduce a higher degree of mechanization."

According to the Ministry of Steel, foreign investors have expressed interest in Indian iron ore projects, especially for export markets.

Chrome Ore

Major Producers

Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd. (State government owned)
Tata Iron and Steel (Tisco) (Private)
Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (Government of India)
Mysore Minerals Ltd. (State government owned)
Misrilall Mines (Pvt.) Ltd. (Private)