

### *Prospects*

There are a number of mostly small gold-bearing areas, which according to the President of FIMI, warrant more intensive exploration. Advanced exploration methods, including remote sensing, airborne geophysics, geochemical surveys and computer-based data processing have been applied only to a very limited extent. The Ministry of Mines also sees scope for cooperation in advanced exploration, as well as improved extraction technologies, smelting and refining.

The India Investment Centre notes that "there are about 10 small primary gold deposits with 0.3 to 2 Mt. of ore reserves with 3-4 gms/tonne of gold which are ideally suited for open cast mining".

### **Nickel**

#### *Major Producers*

none

#### *Output/Trade*

All the Indian demand for nickel is currently met from imports. In 1992/93, imports of nickel concentrate totalled 6022 tonnes, and in 1993/94, 7645 tonnes.

The most important occurrences of nickel are at Sukinda in the Cuttack district of Orissa, and Simlipal in the Mayurbhanj district in the same state. Total reserves at Sukinda are estimated at 219.7 million tonnes, of which the proved reserve is 23 million tonnes (0.9 per cent nickel). Probable reserves are 60 million tonnes. Other nickel occurrences has been identified is association with copper ores in Rajasthan and Bihar.

#### *Exploration Activity*

The Government of India identified nickel as one of the few minerals for which extensive exploration programs should be mounted.

### *Prospects*

The Sukinda deposit is considered promising, and may be a good candidate for foreign collaboration. Technologies for extraction of the low-grade ore are however required.