

#### **D. MAJOR COMMODITY OPPORTUNITIES**

India is a geologically rich nation. Occurrences of virtually all ferrous and non-ferrous minerals have been identified. Reserves of industrial minerals are extensive. Indeed, despite work extending over 144 years by the Geological Survey of India, informed observers state that there remains much more to be found using advanced exploration techniques including geochemical and geophysical exploration as well as remote sensing techniques. Interestingly for Canadians, in geological terms, large parts of the Indian sub-continent are very similar to Canada's pre-cambrian shield.

Indian mineral wealth is summarized in table 5. India is particularly well-endowed with non-coking coal, iron ore, bauxite, and a wide range of industrial minerals. Reserves of most base and precious metals are not yet sufficient to meet domestic demand, although the country's zinc production is considered adequate.

This section of the report is intended to give readers some insight into exploration and production of the major minerals which have been opened to private investment. The minerals discussed are Iron Ore, Chrome ore, Manganese, Bauxite/Aluminum, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Diamonds, Gold, Nickel, Molybdenum, and the Platinum group of metals. Because of its potential for future collaboration, coal is also considered.