

## NEWS AND NOTES

### SECOND SEMINAR ON NORMS FOR EXPLORATION AND RESERVE ESTIMATION OF CEMENT GRADE LIMESTONE

24th and 25th January, 1975

The first Panel Discussion on Standardization of Exploration Techniques in Limestone Prospecting was held at Bangalore in January 1974 primarily to examine the current practice of limestone exploration in the country and to simultaneously assess if there is any urgency for a more rationalised system of exploration of this particular raw material, the consumption of which was steadily growing with the growth of the basic industries like steel and cement. The course of discussions clearly showed that there was a real need for such a system and that the only way of achieving the required rationalisation was to fix directive norms for the prospecting and exploration of limestone deposits. It was decided that the Cement Research Institute of India should be entrusted with the task of evolving the norms for exploration, physico-chemical assessment and reserve estimation of cement grade limestones based on the outcome of the Panel Discussion and the available expertise and literature on the subject.

As a follow-up of the Panel Discussion, the Cement Research Institute of India prepared a document on Draft Norms and circulated it to all the organisations and individual experts closely associated with limestone prospecting.

On the 24th-25th January 1975 a *Second Seminar* was held at Bangalore under the auspices of the Geological Society of India, the Cement Research Institute of India, the Institution of Engineers (Karnataka Centre) and the Indian Standards Institution to consider the Draft Norms. More than 75 delegates from various organisations including the Geological Survey of India, the Indian Bureau of Mines, Mineral Exploration Corporation, Planning Commission, the State Geology Department, Consulting Firms, Cement Companies, Mining Agencies, University and Educational Institutions participated in the Seminar.

The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri C. Karunakaran, Director General, Geological Survey of India. Dr. H. C. Visvesvaraya, Director, Cement Research Institute of India in his Keynote address emphasised that the norms should not be taken for 'rigid specifications' or 'frozen guidelines' but as a consensus of opinion arrived at on the basis of knowledge and experience of professional geologists, which would help execution of the exploratory work more systematically.

The technical sessions that followed the inaugural session, provided an excellent opportunity to discuss and adopt the Draft Norms with modifications wherever found necessary. There was unanimity as to the mode of presentation of the Norms in two parts—one dealing with Directive Provisions and the other with Definitions, Explanations and Detailing—as well on the basis of classification of limestone deposits, categorization of reserves and phasing and programming of exploration of limestone deposits.

It was decided that on the basis of such parameters as the shape and extent of a deposit, conditions of deposition, lithologic and compositional variation, structural and topographic disposition, etc., which, along with reserve estimates, determine the *conditions and scale of exploration as well as the method and intensity of explora-*

tion, the limestone deposits of India be classified into three major types—Simple, Complex, and Intricate. The exploration programme would consist of sequential phases: Phase I- Reconnaissance Prospecting, Phase II- Prospecting and Phase III- Exploration and Proving.

The methodology and quantum of exploration for any cement grade limestone deposit will depend upon its similarity with an already well-explored deposit of the types mentioned earlier. It was decided that case studies of prospecting works conducted on various types of deposits be appended to the document for guidance. The 'inferred' reserves would form the basis for applying for prospecting licence of an area. The 'indicated' reserves will enable an entrepreneur to apply for a mining lease and the financial decision regarding setting up of a cement plant would depend on the availability of economically minable measured reserves for 30 years.

The norms for sampling and technological assessment as proposed in the draft document were accepted with minor modifications. It was proposed that the reserve estimation should include such aspects as benchwise reserves of recoverable nature, overburden ratio, proportion of voids and cavity etc. The norms for recording of reporting of data were accepted with the only addition that the aspect of waste disposal should also find a place in the report.

The Seminar was conducted in a business like manner with a free exchange of opinion and the objective of rationalisation of the exploration programme of cement grade limestone was largely achieved.