

CEMENT RESOURCES AND GYPSUM DEPOSITS OF PAKISTAN: URGENT INSTALLATION OF CEMENT INDUSTRIES IN DAMAN OF SULAIMAN RANGE

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Abstract

Due to rapidly increasing population in Pakistan, it is highly desirable to take step for extending cement, lime and calcium chemical industries, so that the country will be self-sufficient and able to export these materials to earn exchange. Cement Industry raw materials are huge in Pakistan, especially in Sulaiman foldbelt. The inexhaustible reserves of limestone and shale are found in Pakistan. Large deposits of gypsum are found in Sulaiman fold belt 28.5 billion tons, Kohat-Karak 4.7 billion tons, Saiduwali Khisor 220 million tons, Salt Range 137 million tons, and Dadu 10.4 million tons. The easily minable reserves (upto 50 meter depth) of gypsum of Sulaiman foldbelt are 764mt. Present research resulted 28.5bt of all estimated reserves (measured, indicated, inferred and hypothetical) from Sulaiman foldbelt. The breakup of total gypsum reserves includes 14.5bt in Balochistan Province (Barkhan 4.25bt, Kohlu 5.5bt, Sibi 1bt, Dera Bugti 1.75bt, Musa Khel 2bt); 11bt in Punjab (Rajan Pur 2bt and D.G.Khan 9bt); and 3bt in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (D.I.Khan). The Balochistan Province with detail as Barkhan District includes Lakha Kach or Rakhni 1bt, Kodi More-Nodo-Ishani-Gadumra 2bt, Khurcha 0.25bt, Anokai-Bahlol 0.5bt and Bala Dhaka-Karher Buzdar 0.5bt; Kohlu District includes Nisau-Safed 3bt, Kahan-Khatan 1bt, Mawand 1bt, Lunda-Bahney Wali 0.25bt and Janthali 0.25bt; Dera Bugti includes Sham-Kulchas, Phailawagh-Jiandari, and Pirkoh 1.75bt, Sibi district includes Spintangi 1bt; and Musa Khel district includes Drug-Toi Nala-Zamaray 2bt, Kingri 1mt and Chamoiz Khan Mohd Kot 1mt; Punjab province with detail as Rajan Pur district 2bt and D.G.Khan district 9bt; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with detail as D.I.Khan district 3bt and South Waziristan 0.1bt. Easily minable (upto 50m depth) resources of gypsum are 451 million ton in Balochistan (Barkhan 121.3mt, Kohlu 228.7mt, Musa Khel 57mt, Sibi 16mt and Dera Bugti 28mt), 231mt in Punjab (Rajan Pur 33mt and D.G.Khan 198mt), 82mt in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (D.I.Khan 77mt and Waziristan 5mt. Due to these recent discoveries, the Sulaiman gypsum is considered as the first largest deposits in Pakistan. Several cement industries can be installed, especially in Zinda Pir Ziarat, Zin, Mahoi, Gulki/Taunsa, Rakhi Gaj, Dalana, etc areas of D.G.Khan; Harand (Kaha) area of Rajan Pur; Drabin, Domanda, Mughalkot, Shirani, etc areas of D.I.Khan; Sham, Phailawagh, Beakar, Pirkoh, Habib Rahi, etc areas of Dera Bugti; Lakha Kach, Kodi, Nodo, Ishani, Gadumra, Bala Dhaka, Bahlol, etc areas of Barkhan; Chamalang, Nisau, Bohri, Safed, Mawand, etc of Kohlu; near Loralai; and Kingri, Drug, Zamri, etc areas of Musa Khel districts due to close existence of its raw material like limestone, gypsum and shale. At present only one cement factory is working in Zinda Pir D.G.Khan district. The close occurrence of inexhaustible raw materials which will be provided to industry only by belts (and not by trucks), peaceful and favourable locations in the centre of Pakistan and ideal location for all provinces strongly suggests for installation of new cement industries. The installation of more than a dozen new cement industries in D.G.Khan and Rajan Pur districts will be an accelerated innovation for the sustainable development of the areas, provinces and Pakistan. Further Pakistan can earn sufficient foreign exchange by cement export.