

**MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE AREA AROUND BALANGODA, SRI LANKA,  
BASED ON THE FIELD SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN MARCH-JUNE, 1988.**

**K.R. Kudahetty and K.T.U.S. de Silva  
Geological Survey Department, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Ceramic raw materials (kaolin, feldspar, vein quartz and calcite) are reported from a number of places around Balangoda.

The principal objective of the field survey was to locate economic mineral deposits although geological mapping on a limited scale was conducted at the same time.

During the field survey special attention was given to areas which are earmarked to be inundated by the Samanalawewa Hydropower Scheme.

A surface area of 80 square miles (205 sq. km) in the south-west quadrant of the Haputale one inch topographic sheet, which is accessible by major and minor roads, foot paths and timber tracks was studied in this survey.

The general elevation of the area ranges from 1200 to 2000 feet above mean sea level. The topography is hilly.

The rock types of the study area are quartzites, charnockites and their allied rocks, marble, garnetiferous gneisses (undifferentiated metasediments) and minor zircon-bearing or graphic granites.

The major geological structure of the area is the NW plunging Rajawaka-Kaltota synform. Conformable bands of charnockitic gneisses, garnetiferous gneisses, marbles and quartzites follow the above structure.

Types of mineral deposits discovered in the study area are:

1. Vein quartz
2. Calcite
3. Kaolin
4. Travertine

No feldspar deposits except minor feldspar occurrences were found in the study area. All the calcite deposits lie within the 12 miles long marble band which lies on a limb of the Rajawaka-Kaltota synform.