

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:846  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001  
MINING WORK TO PRIVATE SECTOR  
Y.G. MAHAJAN

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the work relating to mining in big mines is proposed to be given to the private sector;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of those big mines where the said work is proposed to be given to the private sector?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) to (c) In the context of basic economic reforms, the National Mineral Policy was announced in 1993 and in pursuance thereof, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended in 1994 in order to attract private investment in the mineral sector and to make the mining sector investor friendly and hassle free. As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, mining lease can be granted to an Indian national or a company registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956. Since 1994, the mining sector (non-fuel/atomic minerals) has been thrown open to private sector irrespective of the size of the mine.

Mining activity in the country is being undertaken both, by public sector as well as private sector companies. The applications for grant of mining leases both from the private sector and public sector are continuously received and processed by the State Governments and mining leases are granted by the State Governments as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. There is no distinction between big or small mines from investment angle which may either be from private sector or public sector.