

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2555
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
IRON ORE DEPOSITS
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) India`s ranking in the world in iron ore production and the details of efforts being made by the Government to improve its iron ore mining.
- (b) whether India`s iron ore deposits are likely to last for 200 years as reported in Economic Times dated 10 April,2008;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the basis/source and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the quantity and value of iron ore reserves in the country, State- wise;
- (e) whether the country is self sufficient as regards availability of iron ore for the future needs of the domestic and industry; and
- (f) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTRY OF MINES(SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a): As per available information, India is 4th largest iron ore producer in the world. The Government has enunciated new National Mineral Policy, 2008, which includes policy measures like assured right to next stage mineral concession, transferability of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions, in order to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. These policy initiatives would provide suitable environment for exploration and utilisation of the mineral potential of the country, including iron ore mining.

(b) to (d): The resources of iron ore are dynamic in nature and bound to increase with further exploration. The level of steel production and the grade of iron ore, taken for purposes of calculating the resources, are important parameters for determining how many years the iron ore deposits will last. The estimated figures can be between 150 to over 200 years depending on the assumptions made. State-wise information on reserves/resources of minerals is given in the Indian Minerals Year Book published by the Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament Library.

(e) : Yes, Sir.

(f) : Does not arise in view of (e) above.