

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:79  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010  
IRON ORE RESERVES  
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) the number of iron ore mining rights granted to the public and private sectors alongwith the estimated quantity of iron ore reserves in the country, sector-wise;
- (b) whether an increase in export of iron ore has been registered;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and conserve the iron ore reserves in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO.79 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON THE 02-03-2010 REGARDING IRON ORE RESERVES

(a): As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) there are 34 reporting mines of iron ore in public sector and 282 reporting mines of iron ore in private sector in the year 2008-09. The total iron ore reserves in the country is 7.06 billion tonnes and the total resources of iron ore are estimated at 25.25 billion tonnes as on 01-04-2005. State-wise information on reserves/resources of iron ore is given in the Indian Minerals Year Book, published by the Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which is supplied to the Parliament Library on regular basis.

(b) & (c): As per available information, 105 million tonnes iron ore was exported in the year 2007-08 and 106 million tonnes in the year 2008-09.

(d): The Government has announced the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which enunciates conservation as a positive concept leading to augmentation of reserve base through improvement in mining methods, beneficiation and utilisation of low grade ore and rejects and recovery of associated minerals. In accordance with this policy, the IBM has revised the threshold value of iron on 16th October 2009 from 55% Fe to 45% Fe.