

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3058  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010  
PROMOTION OF SMALL SCALE MINING  
Mahato Shri Narahari

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

- (a) the number of small scale mines operating in the country at present, Statewise;
- (b) whether the National Mineral Policy, 2008 enunciates promotion of small scale mining of small and isolated mineral deposits;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise; and
- (d) the extent to which such steps are likely to benefit the mineral bearing States?

**Answer**

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

- (a): As per available information, there are 4298 mining leases which have a total area less than 5 hectares.
- (b) & (c): The National Mineral Policy 2008 enunciates that efforts would be made to grant mineral concessions to consortia of small scale miners so that such clusters of small deposits will enable them to reap the benefits of economies of scale. Mineral Concession applications are to be made to the State Government. The Ministry of Mines has on 12-10-2009 circulated a Model State Mineral Policy to all State Governments which inter-alia addresses this issue and has requested the State Governments to consider adopting the policy.
- (d): These provisions would lead to optimal mining by scientific and efficient manner.