

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1504
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
MINING ACTIVITIES
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several regions in the country have been identified where mining activity has reached its optimal limits;
- (b) if so, the details of such areas;
- (c) whether mining activity is taking place in the Western Ghats region;
- (d) whether a moratorium on future mining has had an impact on the development of the concerned region; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The National Mineral Policy 2008 recognizes that the country is blessed with ample resources of a number of minerals and has geological environment for many others, for which it is important to carry out scientific and detailed prospecting. The mineral policy enunciates among other things, policy measures to increase exploration in the country. Since much exploration still needs to be completed in the country, it cannot be held that mining potential for any particular area has reached its optimal limits. However most of the mining lease granted and which are working at present are utilizing their resources optimally in terms of an approved mining plan.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d) & (e): As per available information the Government has constituted a panel on the Western Ghat Ecology which is also studying the ecological and environmental problems in the area due to mining.