

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2619
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
MINERAL RESERVES IN TRIBAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge reserves/deposits of various minerals are available in the country including tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and mineral-wise;
- (c) the total percentage of mining areas of the country which comes under tribal dominated areas;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to prepare any policy/programme for optimum exploration of minerals in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government to explore various minerals?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): As per available information, exploration carried out so far has shown enormous Geological potential for mineral occurrence in the country including many parts of tribal dominated areas. State-wise information on reserves/resources of minerals is given in the Indian Minerals Year Book, published by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a copy of which is supplied to the Parliament Library on regular basis, which is also available on the website of IBM (<http://ibm.nic.in>). Data on percentage of mining areas of the country which comes under tribal dominated areas is not centrally maintained.

(d) & (e): The Government has approved the National Mineral Policy, 2008, on 13th March 2008, replacing the National Mineral Policy, 1993. The new Policy enunciates 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. The Mining policy also seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilisation of the country's natural mineral resources for the industrial growth in the country and at the same time improving the life of people living in the mining areas, which are generally located in the backward and tribal regions of the country. The Government of India has on 12.10.2009 circulated a Model State Mineral Policy to all State Governments to help give effect to the National Mineral Policy which lays specific emphasis on Policy on mining in tribal areas, Stakeholders participation, Rehabilitation & Resettlement etc. The State Governments have been requested to consider adopting the policy. These provisions would lead to optimal mining in a scientific and efficient manner. Recently Geological Survey of India is undertaking hyperspectral mapping using satellite and aerial platform as modern tool to strengthen the search of minerals in the country.