

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:243

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009

AVAILABILITY OF BAUXITE

Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of aluminium based industries have been affected in various parts of the country including Chhattisgarh for want of bauxite;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely availability of bauxite for all sectors;
- (c) whether surveys have been undertaken to explore/exploit new bauxite mines/reserves in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of the agencies involved in the survey/exploration and exploitation of bauxite mines and the findings thereof?

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 THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 243 FOR ANSWER ON 21-07-2009 ASKED BY SHRI P.P. CHAUHAN REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF BAUXITE.

(a) & (b): There are five primary producers of aluminium in India namely, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), HINDALCO Industries Limited, Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO) and Vedanta Aluminium Limited (VAL), of which, only NALCO is in the Public Sector. These producers procure bauxite either from their captive mines or purchase from market sources to meet the requirements of their alumina refineries. The total installed capacity of alumina refineries of the five above-mentioned producers in the country during 2008-09 was approximately 4 million tonnes per annum. For production of 4 million tonnes of alumina, on an average, 12 million tonnes of bauxite is required. During 2008-09, the domestic production of metallurgical grade of bauxite was 11.99 million tonnes. Details of State-wise resources of bauxite and production of bauxite, including in Chattisgarh, are given in Annexure I.

As can be seen from Annexure I, there are sufficient resources of bauxite in the country to meet the requirements of alumina/aluminium producers, who have to make bauxite arrangements either by mining themselves or by procuring bauxite from market sources. Procurement of bauxite from the market is a commercial decision to be taken by the concerned company. However, any company/person wanting to mine bauxite has to obtain a Mining lease. Mining leases are granted by respective State Governments under the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Prior approval of Government of India is required in case of the minerals mentioned in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957, including bauxite.

(c) & (d): Different agencies like Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Directorates of Geology and Mines (DGM) of different States, etc. undertake surveys and exploration of minerals, including bauxite. The details of such surveys/exploration activities during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 in respect of bauxite undertaken by different agencies are given in Annexure II. During the year 2008-09, 72 number of agencies/lessees were exploiting bauxite from 191 mines in the country.