

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3361
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
IRON ORE RESERVES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sufficient reserve of iron ore is available in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the period upto which the iron ore reserves is likely to last to meet the domestic requirement;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to put restrictions on granting mining lease to foreign companies; and
- (e) if so, the action taken/being taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per available information, 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 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.

(c): The reserves are a function of detailed exploration of resources and are dynamic in nature. The level of steel production and the grade of iron ore, taken for purposes of calculating the resources, are important parameters for determining how many years the iron ore deposits will last. The estimated figures can be between 150 to over 200 years depending on the assumptions made.

(d) & (e):As per the Mines and Minerals(Development and Regulation)Act,1957 mining lease can be granted to any person who is an Indian citizen or a company as defined in Section 3(1) of Companies Act, 1956. There is no proposal to change this provision.