

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:52  
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010  
IMPACT OF MINING ACTIVITIES  
Joshi Dr. Murlī Manohar,Sharma Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether mining activities along forest areas is severely affecting the sustenance of tribals as well as environment of the area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has addressed such issues in the existing mining policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed for mining activities in such areas; and
- (e) the details of other measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) : No, sir. All mining leases granted over an area more than 5 hectares are required to obtain environmental clearance, and any diversion of forest land for mining purpose requires forest clearance. These clearances are granted on the basis of impact assessment and approval of environmental management plan, including public hearing for the project.

(b) : Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c)to(e): The National Mineral Policy, 2008, recognizes the fact that mining activity leads to impact on environment and people in the mining area, and enunciates that all mining shall be undertaken within the parameters of a comprehensive Sustainable Development Framework, which inter-alia includes guiding principles for a miner to leave the mining area in a better ecological condition after mining and adequate compensation to the indigenous populations. This concern has already been addressed in the new draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, available on the website of the Ministry of Mines (<http://mines.gov.in>).