

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4494

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010

BENEFICIATION PLANTS

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

- (a) whether a large quantities of iron ore fines are generated in the course of mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these fines are dumped as waste resulting into loss of natural resources;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to make it compulsory for mine owners to set up modern plants/beneficiation plants so as to beneficiate poor grade lump ore and iron ore fines;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the number of beneficiation plants set up in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): As per available information, the percentage of iron ore Fines generated in the course of mining varies from 53.68 % to 57.70%. Iron ore Fines above the notified threshold value are required to be stacked separately by the mining lease holder in terms of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules 1988, for use, either through beneficiation or by blending for its marketability.

(e) to (h): The Government has recommended a decision to incentivize pelletisation of iron ore Fines through a policy of giving preference to exporters/miners who set up pelletisation plants. As per available information, there are 50 beneficiation plants in the country.