

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:422

ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011

NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Mineral Policy, 2008 has been able to address certain serious areas of concern relating to the mining sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the mining operations in some of the mining units in the country were stopped at the directions of courts taking into account the environmental hazards around such mining units;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of workers affected due to the closure of these mining units;
- (e) whether any measures have been taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 422 FOR ANSWER ON 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2011.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The National Mineral Policy, 2008, seeks to address areas of serious concern in mining sector relating inter-alia to:

- (i) making the regulatory mechanisms more conducive to technology and investment flows by ensuring greater transparency in allocation of mineral concessions, seamlessness and security of tenure in the concession processes,
- (ii) strengthening the role of Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines, and State Directorates of Mining and Geology,
- (iii) developing and enforcing a Sustainable Development Framework ensuring stakeholder rights to the indigenous population and that the mining activity takes place along with suitable measures for restoration of the ecological balance,
- (iv) discourage and prevent sub-optimal and unscientific mining by promoting zero-waste mining,
- (v) developing new concession instruments to attract high technology for incentivizing exploration of large areas, and
- (vi) developing a cluster approach to mining of small deposits in a scientific and efficient manner.

(c) & (d): As per available information for current leases for major minerals, details on the total number of mines where mining was stopped by Court direction on account of environmental hazard, and the number of workers affected due to such stoppage is given below:

Sl.no. Name of State Number of mines Number of affected workers

1	Madhya Pradesh	64	698
2	Goa	10	161
3	Karnataka	133	10304 (P)
4	Rajasthan	157	600
5	Haryana	87	3595 (P)
6	Tamilnadu	2	16

(P) provisional

figures indicate workers employed in major mineral mines only

(e) & (f): In terms of the policy directions in the National Mineral Policy, 2008, the Government has drafted a Sustainable Development Framework for the Indian mining sector (non-coal and non-fuel minerals) to facilitate more sustainable development in the mining sector aided by guidance steps, measurable outcomes and reporting and assurance. The following seven principles form the core of the draft Sustainable Development Framework:

Incorporating Environmental and Social Sensitivities in decisions on leases

Strategic Assessment in Key Mining regions

Managing impacts at the Mine level impact through sound management systems

Addressing Land, Resettlement and Other Social Impacts

Community engagement, benefit sharing and contribution to socio-economic development

Mine Closure and Post Closure; and

Assurance and Reporting

Legislative backing for the Sustainable Development Framework is proposed to be incorporated in the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011, currently under finalisation.