

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5681

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011

OVER-EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Roy Shri Arjun;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether shortage of natural resources is being felt in the country due to over- exploitation of the same;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government is depending upon imports to meet the requirement of industrial sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the sectors which depends on imports to meet their requirement?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a)&(b): Demand for natural resources is continuously increasing from all sectors including industry and infrastructure whereas there are supply constraints. India produces 84 minerals which include 4 fuel minerals, 10 metallic minerals, 44 non-metallic minerals, 3 atomic minerals and 23 minor minerals (building and other materials). The country is more or less self reliant in respect of minerals like Barytes, Chromite, Iron ore, Bauxite and Manganese ore etc. However, significant gaps between the demand and supply exist in respect of large number of metallic and non-metallic minerals such as petroleum (crude), coal, copper, nickel, gold, diamond and platinum group of metals. The Government has approved the National Mineral Policy, 2008 on 13th March, 2008. The Mineral Policy seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilization of the country's natural resources for the industrial growth in the country consistent with environmental concerns and objectives of sustainable development.

(c) : Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): Number of ores, metals and minerals are imported for diverse industrial uses including processing value addition and re-export. A statement giving details of the Ores and Minerals imported during the years 2005-06 to 2009-10 is annexed.