

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:696  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009  
MINING OF BAUXITE IN FOREST AREAS  
Balram Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the tribals living in the forests areas are facing difficulties due to the exploration/excavation of bauxite and other minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to protect the rights of the tribals living in mining areas in forests?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : Mining operations are permissible after statutory environment and Forest clearances have been obtained, and rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected persons are required to be undertaken in terms of National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (NRRP). As per available information no instances of tribals facing difficulty in forest areas due to mining of bauxite and other minerals have come to notice.

(c) : The Government has also enunciated the new National Mineral Policy, 2008 which provides for development of a sustainable framework for optimum utilisation of the country's natural mineral resources for the industrial growth in the country and at the same time improving the life of the people living in the mining areas, which are generally located in the backward and tribal regions of the country. The Policy provides for a framework of sustainable development to take care of bio diversity issues and to ensure that mining activity takes place along with suitable measures for restoration of the ecological balance. Project affected persons will be protected through comprehensive relief and rehabilitation packages. All mining shall be undertaken within the parameters of a comprehensive Sustainable Development Framework which will be so devised as to take all these aspects into consideration.