

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:854
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
ALTERNATE USE OF UNUSED MINES
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any provision for the alternate use of the mines lying unused after mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to use such mines economically; and
- (e) if so, the details and the steps taken/being 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) to (c) : Ministry of Mines has introduced the concept of progressive mine closure plan and final mine closure plan for proper reclamation and rehabilitation of the area held under mining lease with effect from 10.4.2003. Every mining lessee has to submit a progressive and final mine closure plan. In the progressive mine closure plan, the mining lessee has to indicate the protective, reclamation and rehabilitative measures to be taken progressively and in final mine closure plan such measures to be taken after the cessation of mining operations. Every lease holder has to furnish financial assurance to the competent authority and if the mining lessee does not carry out protective, reclamation and rehabilitative measures as envisaged in the approved mine closure plan, the financial assurance can be realized by the State Government to carry out the requisite protective measures in the area held under mining lease.

(d) & (e) : The Government has enunciated the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which recognizes that prevention and mitigation of adverse environmental effects due to mining of minerals and repairing and re-vegetation of the affected forest area and land covered by trees in accordance with the latest internationally acceptable norms and modern afforestation practices shall form integral part of mine development strategy in every instance. The Policy also lays down that efforts would be made to convert old disused mining sites into forests and other appropriate forms of land use. The alternative land use may vary from place to place and depends on various other factors such as proximity to water resources, type of soil, accessibility of the area, etc.