

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1986  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009  
EXPLOITATION OF MINERALS  
Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the mineral resources of the country are not being exploited optimally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, mineral-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective step taken/being taken by the Government for optimum exploitation of minerals including precious and semi-precious stones in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Mining of minerals depends broadly on availability of mineral resources, economic viability, demand of the market etc. Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and commercial considerations.

(c): The Government has announced the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which enunciates policy measures like assured right to next stage mineral concession, transferability of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions, in order to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. The Government has also revised the threshold values for 12 minerals which would entail stacking and utilisation of low grade ore. These policy initiatives would provide suitable environment for optimum exploitation of the mineral potential of the country, including precious and semi-precious stones.