

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2965
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009
CONSERVATION OF MINERALS
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote and conserve the mineral resources of country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps 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): The Government has announced the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilisation of the country's natural mineral resources. The policy gives thrust on exploitation of mineral resources in which the country is well endowed so that the needs of domestic industry are fully met keeping in mind both present and future needs, while at the same time exploiting the external markets for such minerals. The Policy enunciates that Conservation of minerals shall be construed not in the restrictive sense of abstinence from consumption or preservation for use in the distant future but as a positive concept leading to augmentation of reserve base through improvement in mining methods, beneficiation and utilisation of low grade ore and rejects and recovery of associated minerals. The Government has also revised the threshold values for 12 minerals which would entail stacking and utilisation of low grade ore.