

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4034
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
OPEN CAST MINING
Rathod Shri Ramesh;Vivekanand Dr. G.

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allowed open cast mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives of such mining;
- (c) whether the local people in some States have opposed open cast mining in their States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be 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)&(b): As per available information, majority of mineral raising in India is carried out by open cast mining. Open cast mining is a method of mining in which excavation or cut is made at the surface of ground for purpose of extracting ore and which is open to the surface for the duration of mine's life.

(c)to(e): Some instances of opposition by local people to mining has come to the notice of Government, which includes Andhra Pradesh also. The local people have mainly opposed mining on the grounds of damage to environment and infrastructure and displacement of local population. The Central Government has enunciated National Mineral Policy 2008, which seeks to develop 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 people living in the mining areas, which are generally located in the backward and tribal regions of the country.