

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:53

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009

NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY

Khair Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao; Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a National Mineral Policy is being formulated;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to update the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely impact on the mining industry as a result thereof;
- (e) whether unorganised mines are being brought under the proposed National Mineral Policy; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the criteria for selection of such unorganised mines?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 53 SLATED FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON THE 07-07-2009 ASKED BY SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE AND SHRI TATHGATA SATAPATHY REGARDING NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY

(a) and (b): The Government has enunciated a National Mineral Policy 2008 on 13-03-2008. The National Mineral Policy, inter alia, provides for transparency in the allocation of concessions, security of tenure, transferability etc. in order to make the regulatory environment more conducive to investment and technology flows. The core functions of the State will be facilitation and regulation and Geological Survey of India will be the principal agency for survey and regional mineral resource assessment. The private sector is envisaged as an important source of investment in reconnaissance and exploration. Exploration of minerals will be guided by long-term national goals as part of the overall strategy of the country's economic development, and will be done within a sustainable development framework.

(c) and (d): The Government has initiated action for changing the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give effect to the provisions of the National Mineral Policy, which in respect of mining industry, inter alia, seeks to ensure scientific methods of mining, beneficiation and economic utilization. The Policy declares zero waste mining to be the national goal with mining technology being upgraded to ensure extraction and utilization of the entire run-of-mines.

(e) and (f): Small and isolated deposits of minerals are scattered all over the country. The National Mineral Policy recognizes the need to promote small scale mining of small deposits in a scientific and efficient manner while safeguarding vital environmental and ecological imperatives. The Policy provides for tightening of regulation so as to control and prevent the growth of illegal mining. Where small deposits are not susceptible to viable mining the Policy advocates a cluster approach by granting the deposits together as a single lease within a geographically defined boundary.