

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:359
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
PRODUCTION OF MINERALS
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mining sector has recorded a growth rate of 2.34 per cent during the year 2008-09;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the target for production of various minerals for the year 2009-10 and the initiatives taken to achieve this target;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to take special measures to promote production of various rare minerals including gold in the North Eastern Region of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : As per available information the growth rate in Mining Sector in 2008-09 was 2.58% . The growth rate of Fuel Minerals and MCDR Minerals was 2.85% and 1.70% respectively.

(c) to (e): Mining of minerals depends broadly on availability of mineral resources, economic viability, demand of the market etc. Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of location, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and commercial considerations. The Central Government has enunciated the new National Mineral Policy, 2008 which envisages streamlining and simplifying the procedures in grant of mineral concessions in order to attract investment into mining sector. 35 investigations were carried out by the Geological Survey of India in North Eastern Region during annual programme of 2007-08 and 32 items are proposed to be taken in 2008-09.