

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2012

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015

NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY

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

- (a) the salient features of the National Mineral Policy, 2008;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to frame a new National Mineral Policy by amending the extent National Mineral Policy and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the provisions relating to allocation of mines, royalty rates, illegal mining and welfare of local population affected by mining works; and
- (d) the time by which the new policy is likely to be implemented and the extent to which it is likely to help modernisation and development of the mining sector?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a): The salient features of the National Mineral Policy, 2008, inter-alia, are as under:

- (i) Minerals being a valuable resource, extraction have to be optimized through scientific methods, beneficiation and economic utilization. Zero waste mining will be the goal.
- (ii) The regulatory environment will be made more conducive to investment. Transparency in allocations of concession will be assured with security of tenure to a concessionaire.
- (iii) A framework of sustainable development will be designed to ensure that mining can take place along with restoration.
- (iv) Mining shall not be undertaken in ecologically fragile or biologically rich areas. Mining in forest areas will be accompanied by time-bound reclamation.
- (v) Special care will be taken to protect the interest of host and indigenous (tribal) populations on the basis of international best practice. Project affected persons will be protected through comprehensive relief and rehabilitation packages in line with the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement(R&R) Policy.
- (vi) Mining sectoral value addition through beneficiation, calibration, blending, sizing, concentration, pelletisation, purification and customization will be encouraged.
- (vii) State agencies involved in mineral sector development and regulation will be encouraged to modernize in the areas of prospecting as well as regulation.
- (viii) To exploit the country's geological potential it will be ensured that Regional and Detailed Explorations are carried out systematically in the entire geologically conducive mineral bearing area of the country using state- of-the-art techniques.
- (ix) To promote the use of state of the art exploration techniques, scientific mining and optimal use of minerals, special impetus will be given to research and development and to the establishment of appropriate educational and training facilities for human resource development to meet the manpower requirements of the mineral industry.
- (x) The revenues from minerals will be rationalised to ensure that the mineral bearing states get a fair share of the value of the minerals extracted from their grounds.

(b): There is no proposal to frame a new National Mineral Policy. However, an Ordinance was promulgated on 12.1.2015 to amend the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

(c) and (d): Does not arise in the view of (b) above.