

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2043  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015  
MINING IN TRIBAL AREAS  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) the details of mining leases granted in tribal areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the tribals have objected to mining activities being undertaken in and around their habitations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): The State Government are the owners of the minerals located within their respective boundaries. They grant the mineral concessions [Reconnaissance Permit (RP), Prospecting License (PL) and Mining Lease (ML)] under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 as amended from time to time. Mineral concessions are executed by the State Governments with the applicants after they obtain all statutory clearances and approvals. Details of mining lease granted in tribal areas are not separately maintained by Ministry of Mines. Before the promulgation of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2015 on 12th January, 2015, the prior approval of the Central Government was required under Section 5 (1) of the Act for grant of RP, PL and ML in respect of minerals specified in Parts 'B' and 'C' of the First Schedule to the Act, details of such prior approval given by the Ministry of Mines in the last three years and the current year, State-wise, including in Tribal areas in the country is given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c): The information is not centrally maintained.

(d): The Central Government has enunciated National Mineral Policy, 2008, which seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilization 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 mining areas, which are generally located in the backward and tribal regions of the country. The Mineral Policy also enunciates that special care will be taken to protect the interest of host and indigenous (tribal) populations through developing models of stakeholder interest based on the international best practice.