

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4332
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
EXPORT ORIENTED POLICIES
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any export oriented policy for granites, marbles, slates and sandstone industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any uniform leasing and renewal policy in these industries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a)(a) &(b): Export of Granites, Marbles, Slates and Sandstone is 'Free'.

(c) & (d): Granite, Marble, Slate [when used for building material], Sandstone [when used for purposes of building or for metal] are defined as minor minerals under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act]. As per MMDR Act, 1957, the State Governments are empowered to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases and other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Although, Granite & Marble are minor minerals, issues like scientific exploitation of Granite & Marble resources, environmental hazards and mining safety prompted the Ministry of Mines to frame a uniform policy relating to Granite and Marble, to be implemented across all states in the country. Subject to the broad uniform specifications, the State Governments are empowered to specify the further conditions for grant and renewal of Granite & Marble leases.