

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2387  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014  
DEVELOPMENT OF MINING SECTOR  
Ering Shri Ninong

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

- (a) whether it is true that huge deposits of our mineral reserves are yet to be tapped in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including various economic, bureaucratic, environmental and capacity issues affecting domestic mining sector; and
- (c) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to remove the bottlenecks in development of the mining sector?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The mining sector has been liberalized since the year 1993. The Government does not administer demand and supply of the minerals. The demand and supply of minerals is driven by the market. Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and commercial considerations. Mining of minerals therefore primarily depends on availability of mineral reserves, economic viability, demand of the market etc.

The Government has enunciated the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which inter alia lays down policy decision like streamlining and simplifying the procedures for grant of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions, in order to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. The policy also provides for research and development in the mineral sector directed towards the development of new technologies for conversion of existing mineral resources into viable economic resources and improvement of regulatory environment to make it more conducive to investment and technology flows and strengthening Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and the State Directorates of Mining & Geology with man power and state of the art equipment and skill set. These policy initiatives would provide suitable environment for optimum exploitation of the mineral potential of the country.