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Title: Need to conduct a comprehensive survey on the availability of minerals in Araku Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): I would like to draw kind attention of the Government regarding the mining issues pertaining to the scheduled areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Araku, a mineral rich constituency has 75 per cent of the scheduled area fully inhabited by the tribals. There is no proper report by the Geological Survey of India to identify minerals spread over the area.

Though the mining policy has been framed, it is yet to be finalised for the scheduled areas till date. Any activity that needs to be done in the scheduled areas needs the resolution of the gram sabha under the PESA act which has come into force since 2011 but mining has been going on in the scheduled areas without any such resolution. Because of this, there is huge unrest prevailing in the tribal area and there are agitations by the local people on the illegal mining.

I have also submitted a representation to the hon. Minister for mines and minerals to order a comprehensive survey on the availability of minerals in Araku parliamentary constituency by the geological department of India. I, herewith, also request the government to announce a clear policy pertaining to the mining in scheduled areas. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to take necessary action in this regard as may be deemed fit in the interest of the local tribals and the nation.