

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.07.2010
ANSWERED ON
RE ORIENTATION OF MINERAL SECTOR .

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Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the mining sector would be reoriented to serve as a vehicle for National Mineral Policy, prioritizing economic efficiency and envisaging an investment and technology friendly regulatory set up;
- (b) if so, how this objective is proposed to be achieved and the time-frame therefor; and
- (c) whether the rehabilitation of the tribals would adequately be taken care of, as the primary pockets of mineral wealth are in tribal-inhabited forests in central, south, east and north-east regions, so that tribals are not compelled to resort to agitations as was the case with Santhal Adivasis in Jharkhand where mining was taken up?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) & (b): The Government has announced the National Mineral Policy, 2008 which enunciates policy measures in order to reduce impediments to investment and technology flows in the mining sector in India. The Policy is already under implementation.

(c) : The new National Mineral Policy, 2008 seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilisation 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 the mining areas, which are generally located in the backward and tribal regions of the country. The new 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 international best practice. Rehabilitation of inhabitants is to be undertaken in accordance with Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy of the State Government. The Government of India has on 12.10.2009 circulated a Model State Mineral Policy to help give effect to the National Mineral Policy which lays specific emphasis on Policy on mining in tribal areas, Stakeholders participation, Rehabilitation & Resettlement etc.