

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1792  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006  
MINING LEASE .  
Mohite Shri Subodh

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

- (a) Whether the Government has taken note of its limitations in providing mining lease under the Forest (Conservation) and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to bring a new policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which new policy is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) & (b) Mineral concession including mining leases are granted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and the rules framed thereunder. Beside the provisions of MMDR Act, provisions relating to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA), Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA) and other statutory requirements need to be complied with. As per Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification issued under the EPA, 1986, mining projects of major minerals having lease area of more than 5 ha attract the provisions of EIA Notification and require prior environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 requires prior approval for diversion of forest land for non forestry use including mining, renewal of mining leases on forest land.

(c) & (d) A High Level Committee set up to review the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and the MMDR Act has recommended that forest clearance may be given in one stage and in the course of public consultation required for environmental clearance, only local people should be eligible to participate in public hearings while outsiders may submit representations.