

New Mineral Policy

1463. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main objectives of the mineral policy are to bring in more areas into prospecting and mining of precious metals and minerals and industrialization of backward areas;

Expansion of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

1462. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Neyveli Lignite Corporation has any plans of expansion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how these expansion project would be financed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes sir. The expansion plans of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) are given below;

Project under Implementation

Name of the Project				Capacity
Mine-I Expansion				4 Million Tonnes per annum
Mine-IA				3 Million Tonnes per annum
Thermal	Power	Station-I		2x210 Mega Watts
Expansion				
				<i>Projects Planned</i>
Mine-II Expansion				4 Million Tonnes Per annum
Mine-III				12 Million Tonnes per annum
Thermal	Power	Station-II		1x500 Mega Watts
Expansion				
Thermal Power Station-III				3x500 Mega Watts

(c) The planned projects are proposed to be funded by a mix of internal resources and market borrowings.

(b) if so, to what extent these objective have been achieved and what strategy is being adopted in this regard; and

(c) what is the amount of investment made, both foreign and indigenous, separately, in mining sector after announcement of the New Mineral Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The Main objectives of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 inter-alia, include giving special attention to exploration and development of metals and minerals in which the country has poor and inadequate resource base. Following an integrated approach for mineral development under the Policy, therefore, benefit development of backward areas since mineral deposits generally occur in remote and backward areas.

(b) and (c) The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 was amended in 1994 for implementing the objectives of the National Mineral Policy, 1993. The guidelines for attracting private sector investment including foreign direct investment and prospecting over large areas were also laid down Implementation of the National Mineral Policy is an ongoing process. Under the Policy, 65 applications for prospecting licences over large area covering more than 90, 142 square kilometers have been approved so far. As grant of mineral concessions is done by the State Governments, comprehensive information regarding investment made in the mining sector through indigenous/foreign direct investment is not maintained centrally. However, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved 57 proposals involving foreign direct investment amounting to Rs. 3367 crores in the mining sector.

Use of Obsolete Equipment by GSI

1464. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Geological Survey of India is still using obsolete equipment as against the technology available;

(b) Whether the GSI needs to equip itself with latest state-of-the-art technology; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?