

requirements. Government of Kerala has also stated that NREGA guidelines may be modified to suit the specific conditions prevailing in the State like long monsoon season and availability of very little public land. They have suggested that:

- NREG could be used for replanting perennial crops.
- NREG could be used for land and water development activities for small and marginal farmers.
- NREG may be used for collection of coconut husk by Kudumbasree Group.

NREG guidelines have been modified in July 2009 to include provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by, *Inter alia*, small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme 2008.

Changes in mining policy

*424. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring sweeping changes in the mining policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken the views of the mining experts and the State Governments, before bringing about such changes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Government has already enunciated the new National Mineral Policy, 2008, taking into consideration the views of mineral bearing States. The new National Mineral Policy has been tabled in the both Houses of Parliament, on 20.3.2008 in Rajya Sabha and on 16.4.2008 in Lok Sabha and is available on the website of Ministry of Mines (<http://mines.nic.in>). The new Policy has enunciated policy measures like assured right to next stage mineral concession, transferability of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions and measures to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. The Policy also 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.

(c) and (d) Government had constituted a Committee on 14.09.2005 under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member Planning Commission to review the National Mineral Policy and to suggest changes in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation)

Act, 1957, in order to give a fillip to the investment in the mining sector. The Committee considered submissions by Government of Rajasthan, Government of Bihar, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Government of Uttaranchal, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Government of Chhattisgarh, Government of Government of Orissa and Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Committee also heard the views of a large number of other stakeholders [list at Statement (See below)]. The Committee had 12 meetings and it submitted its report on 19.7.2006.

Thereafter important mineral producing State raised issues relating to concerns on the need to allow the State Government to give preference to value addition within the State, policy on seamless transition, security of tenure, need to strengthen Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and allow preferential treatment in grant of mineral concessions to PSUs, apart from requesting for levy of royalty on ad valorem basis as given in the recommendations of the Hoda Committee on Mineral Policy.

These issue alongwith the recommendations of the High Level Committee were discussed in the meeting of the Mineral Advisory Council held on 6.11.2006, where the Chief Ministers of all the States were invited. Apart from this, the Chief Ministers of State Government of Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh also separately gave their views on Mining Policy to the Government through joint representation.

The National Mineral Policy was referred to a Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by Shri Shivraj V. Patil which recommended the new Mineral Policy for consideration of the Government. Further, the Chairman of Group of Minister held consultations with the Chief Ministers of State Government of Orissa, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh on 6.8.2007. All the views and concerns in the various meetings mentioned above were considered and appropriately addressed by the Government before finalisation of National Mineral Policy, 2008.

Statement

The list of stakeholders who made submissions

Submissions made to the High Level Committee

1. Porbandar District Chamber of Commerce and Industries
2. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
3. Tata Steel
4. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
5. Aravali Minerals and Chemicals
6. Jai Prakash Associates Ltd.
7. Ambuja Cement

8. Gujarat Mineral Industry Association
9. Society of Geo-scientists and Allied Technologists
10. Birla Corporation Ltd.
11. The India Cements Limited
12. Rajashree Cement
13. Grasim Cement
14. Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
15. Shree Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd.
16. Reserve Bank of India
17. M/s Jindal Stainless Steel
18. Development Commissioner, Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone
19. Federation of Indian Mineral Industries

Presentations made before the High Level Committee

1. Department of Atomic Energy
2. Rio Tinto
3. BHP Billiton
4. Indian Steel Alliance
5. Dr. T.M. Babu
6. AXL Industries
7. De Beers
8. Sesa Goa
9. Sterlite Industries
10. Essel Mining and Industries Limited
11. Goa Mineral Ore Exporters' Association
12. Mining Engineers' Association of India
13. Federation of Indian Mineral Industries
14. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
15. ESSAR Steel Limited
16. Wolkem India Limited
17. Geomysore Services (India) Pvt. Limited

18. Transworld Garnet India Pvt. Limited
19. Steel Furnace Association of India
20. The Associated Cement Companies Limited
21. Ernst and Young India Limited

Joint Ventures of GAIL with State Governments

*425. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has entered into Joint Ventures with State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these are in consonance with the objective of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act to promote competition in the sector; and
- (d) whether the Joint Ventures have been approved by PNGRB?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Joint Ventures (JVs) with State Governments are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of JVC	State Government with which JV has been formed
1.	Indraprastha Gas Ltd.	Government of NCT of Delhi
2.	Mahanagar Gas Ltd.	Government of Maharashtra
3.	Bhagya Nagar Gas Ltd.	Government of A.P.
4.	Tripura Natural Gas Ltd.	Tripura Industrial Development Corporation. Government of Tripura
5.	Central U.P. Gas Ltd	Government of U.P.
6.	Green Gas Ltd.	Government of U.P.
7.	Maharashtra Natural Gas Ltd.	Government of Maharashtra
8.	Avantika Gas Ltd.	Government of M.P.

(c) There is no dissonance between the operation of these JVs in City Gas Distribution sector and the objective of PNGRB Act, 2006 to promote competition in the sector.