

of the affected persons, rather than externally imposed. A careful assessment of the economic, environmental and social impact on the affected persons will be made. A mechanism will be evolved which would actually improve the living standards of the affected population and ensure for them a sustainable income above the poverty line. For this purpose, all the provisions of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy or any revised Policy or Statute that may come into operation, will be followed.*

(c) and (d) The National Mineral Policy 2008 provides that the States shall be adjusted to overcome the problem of illegal mining through operational and financial package with the Indian Bureau of Mines. In order to ensure systematic and scientific mining, Indian Bureau of Mines and the State Directorates shall be suitably strengthened through capacity building measures. Regulation of conditionalities for mining of small deposits shall be tightened so as to control and prevent the growth of illegal mining.

The draft legislation pursuant to the Policy is based on the aforementioned guidelines.

Illegal mining in Orissa

4089. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to illegal mining, several mining operations and mining transport by Road and Railways has been stopped in Barbil area of Keonjhar district in Orissa and as a result of which 25,000 workers are sitting idle; and

(b) whether it is a fact that even Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC) mining operation have also been stopped even if it is a public sector mine?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per available information, 7746 numbers of employees are affected in 164 mines suspended in the State of Orissa in various districts of the State. Mining operations has also been stopped in the Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC).

Minority communities in Jammu and Kashmir

4090. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: