

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) State-wise information on reserves/resources of minerals is given in the Indian Minerals Year Book, published by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a copy of which is supplied to the Parliament Library on regular basis, which is also available on the website of IBM (<http://ibm.nic.in>).

(b) and (c) Mining of minerals depends broadly on availability of mineral resources, economic viability, demand of the market etc. Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of location, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and commercial considerations.

(d) to (f) The Government has approved the National Mineral Policy, 2008, on 13th March 2008, replacing the National Mineral Policy, 1993. The new Policy enunciates policy measures like assured right to next stage mineral concession, transferability of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions, in order to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. The Mining 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. The Government has also revised the threshold values for 12 minerals, which would entail stacking and utilisation of low grade ore. These policy initiatives would provide suitable environment for optimum exploitation of the mineral potential of the country.

Creation of State Mining Regulatory Authorities

2104. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as a part of efforts to curb illegal mining, the Central Government proposes to form State Mining Regulatory Authorities to cover minor minerals that are used in the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the manner in which the State Mining Regulatory Authorities would be controlled by the Central Government;

(c) whether the National Mineral Regulatory Authority would be given powers to check the role of the State Mining Regulatory Authorities; and

(d) if so, to what extent the two-tier check by Government would curb illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal is presently under consideration of Group of Ministers. The details will be available once the matter is finalised.

Students benefited from Scholarship Schemes

2105. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the community-wise breakup of students who took benefit of scholarship schemes of the minorities during the last three years;

(b) whether the Ministry aims for proportionate distribution of scholarship to children of different communities, as per their ratio in population and if so, how it would be ensured;

(c) the ratio of girl students benefited from such schemes; and

(d) whether these schemes are also extended to minority community of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Nagaland and Mizoram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Minority community-wise details of beneficiaries benefited under the Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit cum Means based scholarship schemes during the last three years are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) The scholarships have been allocated equitably among the students of various minority communities, notified under section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, throughout the country based on the State/UT-wise ratio of population of the minority communities based on 2001 census.

(c) The percentage of girls benefited under these schemes during the last three years is annexed.

(d) Benefits of these schemes are extended to the five religious communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (parsis) which have been declared as minority communities under section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, regardless of the states in which they stay.