

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the "National Mineral Policy 2019" (NMP 2019). The Ministry of Mines uploaded the "NMP 2019" on its official website *i.e.* "<https://mines.gov.in>" on 12.03.2019. The salient features of NMP are as below:

1. To explore the country's entire geological potential, it shall be ensured that regional and detailed exploration is carried out systematically, scientifically and intensively over the entire geologically conducive mineral bearing area of the country, using state-of-the-art technologies, including seismic 2D/3D interpretative systems, in a lime bound manner.
2. There will be an emphasis on strengthening the regulatory mechanism by incorporating E-Governance, including satellite and remote sensing applications. Provisions shall be made for end-to-end accounting of mineral/ore in the supply chain with use of it enabled systems.
3. National inventory of mineral resources will be based on comprehensive and up to date review of exploration data which will be maintained in digitised form comprising both a resource inventory and a tenement registry.
4. As part of Initiative for ease of doing business the States shall make an endeavour to auction mineral blocks with pre-embedded statutory clearances.
5. The regulatory agencies will be suitably strengthened through capacity building measures in terms of adequate manpower, technology, equipment and skill-set.

NMP 2019 states that endeavour shall be made to rationalize those areas that were reserved but remained unused by PSUs, for speedy development.

#### **Strategy to tap mineral resources**

3276. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the plan and strategy of Government to tap the abundance of various mineral resources in different parts of the country including Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) the details thereof and the steps taken by Government for mining and utilisation of these minerals for the economic development of the country;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to set up special units in mineral rich States like Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha for mining of available minerals; and

(d) if so. the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI) : (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and rules made there under, the State Governments grant the mineral concessions for the minerals located within their respective boundaries. So far, 64 mineral blocks have been auctioned by the States. As per the information provided by the respective State Governments, 126 mineral blocks are proposed to be auctioned by States in the current year:

Sl.No.	State	Blocks in pipeline for auction
1	Andhra Pradesh	17 Blocks (9 Limestone, 4 Manganese, 1 Iron Ore, 1 Copper, 1 Gold, 1 Lead)
2	Chhattisgarh	11 Blocks (7 Bauxite, 4 Limestone)
3	Gujarat	11 Limestone and Bauxite Blocks
4	Jharkhand	26 Blocks (11 Bauxite, 5 Graphite, 3 Manganese, 2 Limestone, 2 Emerald, 1 Copper, 1 Dolomite, Limestone and Dolomite)
5	Karnataka	14 Blocks (8 Iron Ore, 6 Limestone)
6	Odisha	39 Blocks (15 Iron Ore, 10 Manganese, 5 Bauxite, 4 Graphite, 3 Limestone, 1 Iron and Manganese, 1 Limestone and Dolomite)
7	Rajasthan	8 Blocks (7 Limestone, 1 Copper and Gold)
	Total	126 Blocks (31 Limestone, 24 Iron Ore, 23 Bauxite, 17 Manganese, 11 Limestone and Bauxite, 9 Graphite, 2 Copper, 2 Emerald, 2 Limestone and Dolomite, 1 Gold, 1 Lead, 1 Dolomite, 1 Copper and Gold, 1 Iron and Manganese)

#### Revision of rates of royalty for major minerals

3277. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state: whether the Ministry will revise the royalty for major minerals, including Iron Ore, as the same was due for revision in September, 2017, as Odisha being a mining