

NOTICE

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 2.8.2017 in WP(C) 114 of 2014 directed the Union of India to revisit the National Mineral Policy, 2008 and to announce a fresh and more effective, meaningful and implementable policy. In compliance of the Hon'ble Court's directions, the Ministry of Mines had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. K Rajeswara Rao, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines. The Committee submitted its Report along with a draft National Mineral Policy to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India on 31.12.2017.

Based on the Committee Report and the inputs received from stakeholders during subsequent consultations, the Ministry of Mines prepared the National Mineral Policy 2019. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.02.2019 approved the "National Mineral Policy 2019". The salient features of the "National Mineral Policy 2019" are as follows:

- It proposed to increase the production of major minerals by 200% in 7 years. It also proposes to reduce trade deficit in mineral sector by 50% in 7 years.
- It aims to attract private investment through incentives like financial package, right of first refusal at the time of auction etc. or any other appropriate incentive as per international practice.
- Introduces the concept of Exclusive Mining Zones having in-principle statutory clearances for grant of mining lease. It also proposes to identify critically fragile ecosystem and declare such areas as 'no-go areas'/inviolable areas.
- It emphasizes implementation of all relevant Acts/Rules related to rehabilitation & resettlement and welfare of tribal communities while grant of mineral concessions.
- Encourages states to auction mineral blocks with pre-embedded statutory clearances.
- To institutionalize the mechanism for ensuring sustainable growth of mining sector; an inter-ministerial body is proposed.
- Endeavors shall also be made to grant mining the status of Industry.
- In case of small deposits of precious metals and base metals, the establishment of common smelting and refining facilities shall be encouraged.
- It seeks to align downstream regulations for the exploration, development and acquisition of overseas mineral assets for ensuring its adequate supply which are not available in the country.
- It focuses on a long term export-import policy for the mineral sector to provide stability for investing in large scale commercial mining activity.
- Efforts shall be made to benchmark and harmonize royalty and all other levies and taxes with mining jurisdiction across the world.
- It also introduces the concept of Inter-Generational Equity which is also recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in various judgments.
