

Meghalaya

Mining their own business

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# Introduction



Meghalaya

Area of 22,429 sq. km.

Divided into 7 Districts

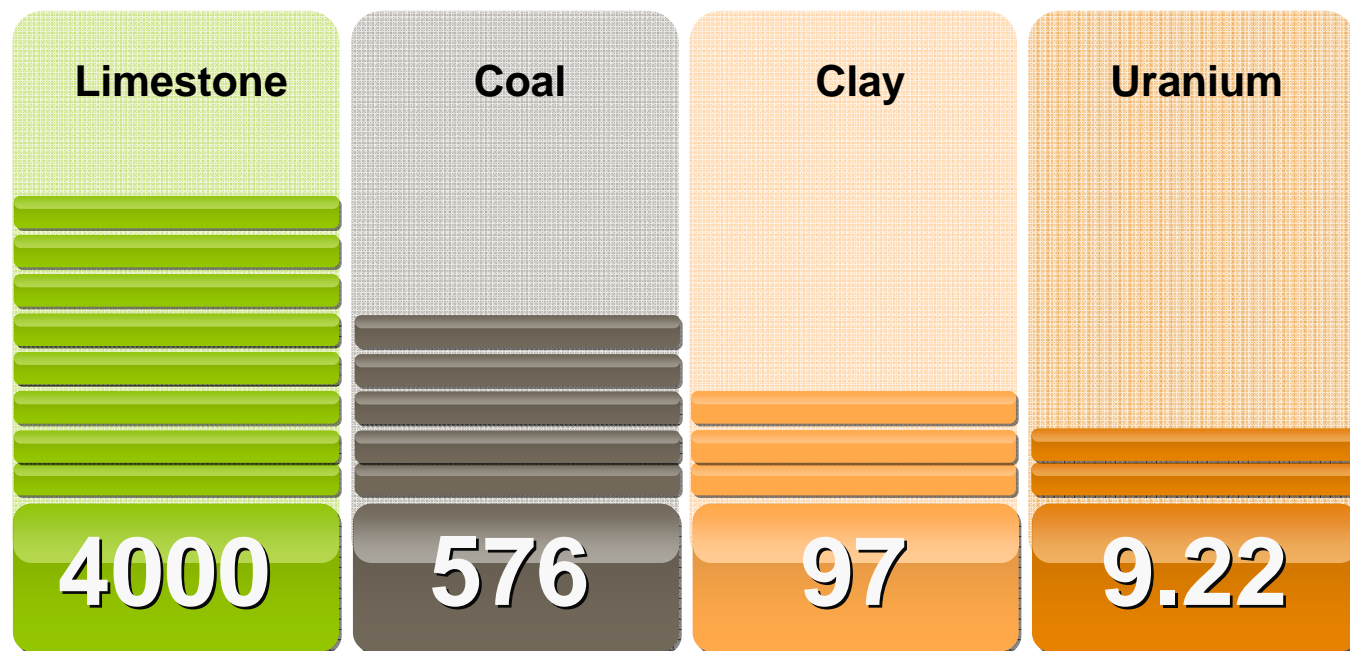
Three Main tribes- *Khasi, Pnar and Garo*

Indo-Malayan Biodiversity Hotspot.

Major Minerals- *Coal, Limestone & Uranium*

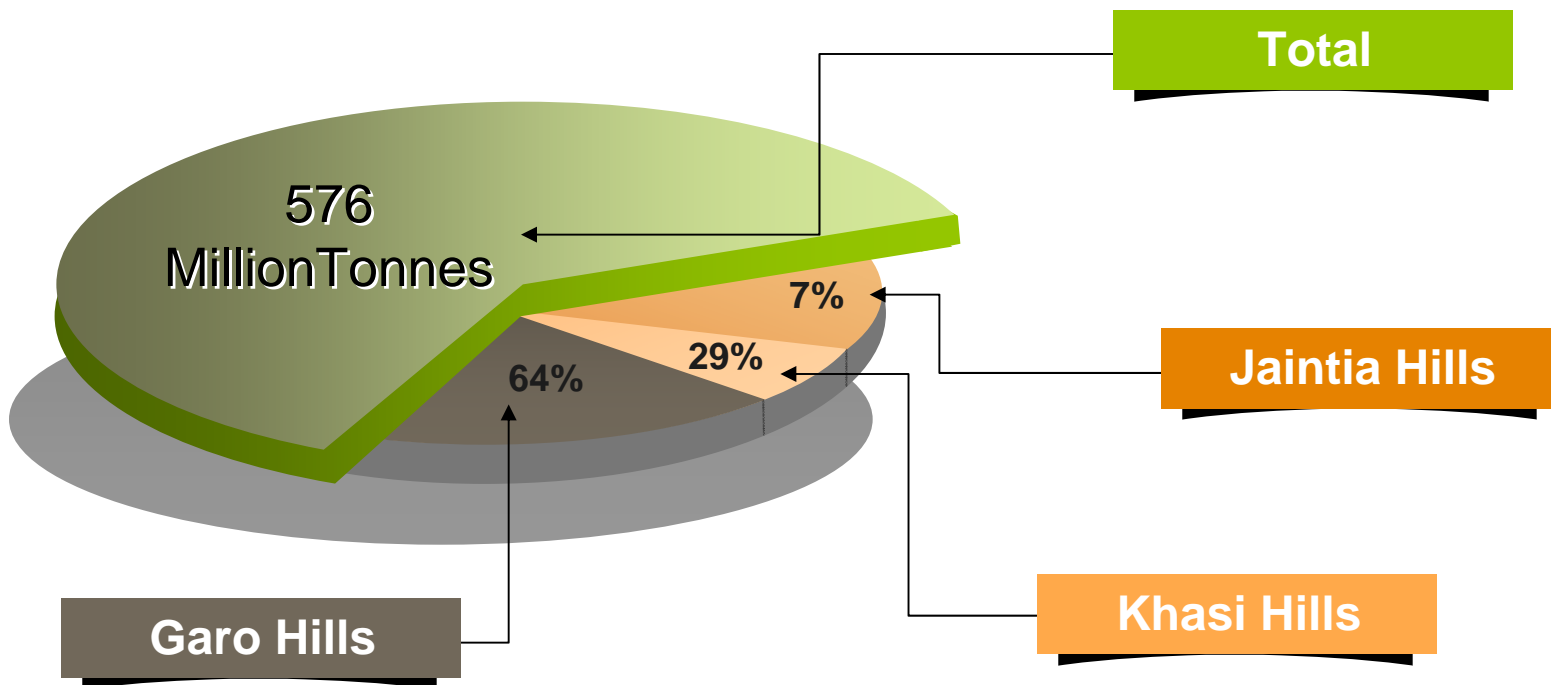
Entire state is a *Sixth Schedule* area

# Mineral Deposits in Meghalaya



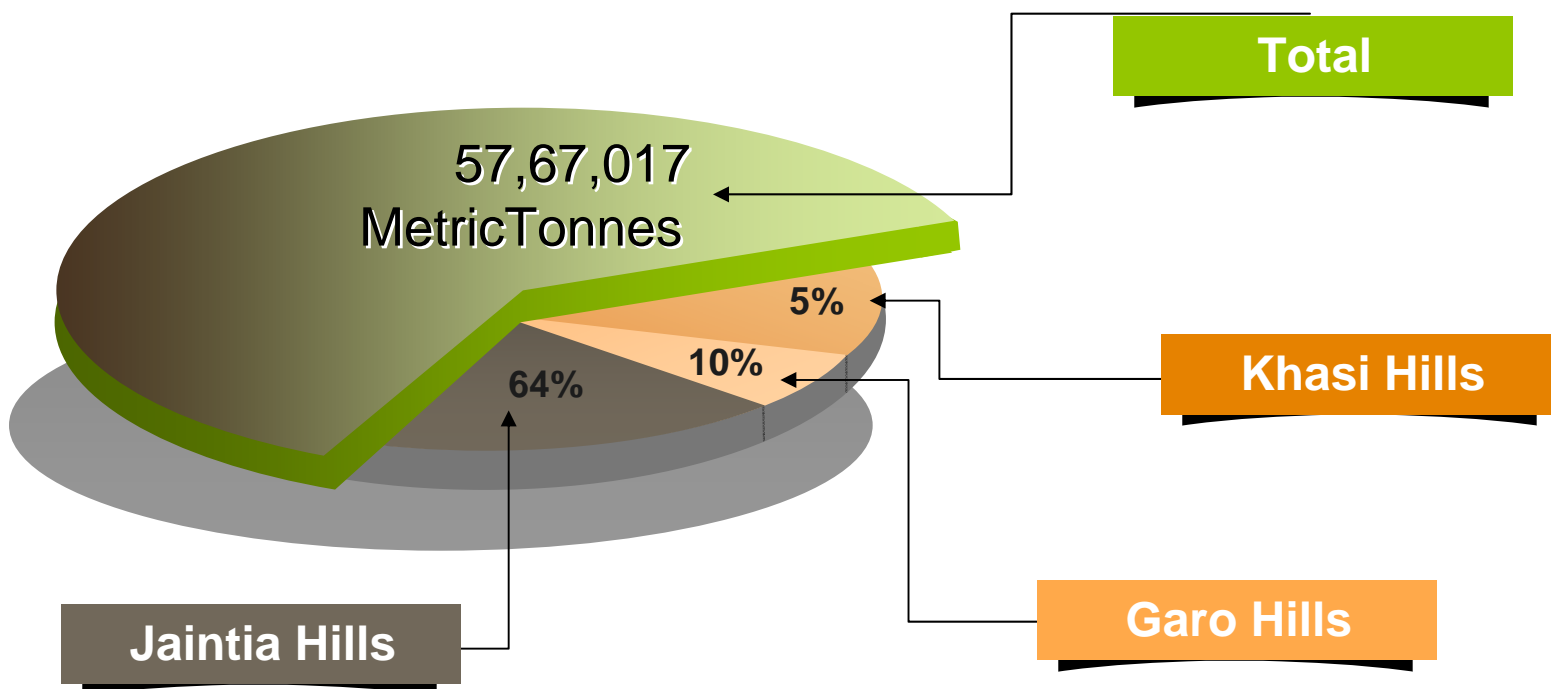
(In Million Tonnes)

# Coal Deposits Region Wise





# Production of Coal Region Wise 2009-2010



# Brief History of Coal in India

1973

Coal was nationalized  
Coal Mines (Nationalization)  
Act, 1973

1976

Amendment  
Granting Sub-lease to  
individuals to mine coal

1996

Amendment  
Captive Mining for Steel  
and Cement plants



# Brief History of coal mining in Meghalaya

## When?

Introduced by the British in late 19<sup>th</sup> Century in the Khasi Hills.

## Usage

Used by the British to heat their houses and found no use for the locals.

## Present

Mined exclusively by indigenous residents of the state. Sold in national and international markets

# Who is eligible to mine coal?

## **Central govt. owned or controlled company**

**Coal India Limited (CIL) is the deemed lessee of coal in India. As granted by the nationalization process.**

## **Cement Iron & Steel**

**In 1996 Coal Mining allowed for captive consumption.**

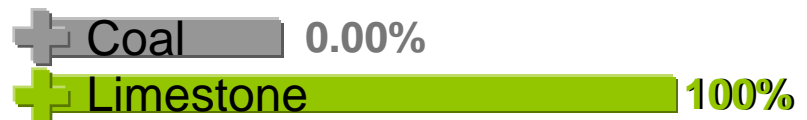
## **Individuals with Sub-lease**

**Individuals are allowed to mine provided they have a sub-lease in areas where coal is found in small pockets.**

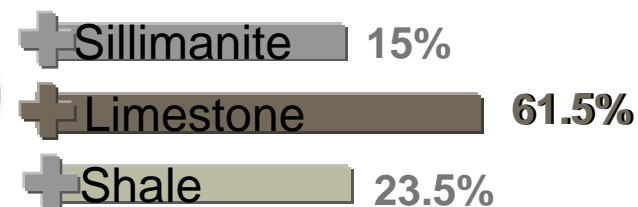


# Who owns lease/sub-lease in Meghalaya

There are a total of **16** lease  
Given by the Govt. of  
Meghalaya



There are a total of **13**  
Prospecting Licenses



Number of Lease/Sublease,  
Prospecting License,  
Reconnaissance Permit



# Compulsory requirements for any mining operation

## Mining Lease

**MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1957** the act that governs all minerals prohibits mining of any mineral without a lease in Section 4 (1)

## Reconnaissance Permit

Granted for preliminary prospecting of a mineral through regional, aerial, geophysical or geochemical surveys and geological mapping.

## Prospecting License

Granted for undertaking operations for purpose of exploring, locating or proving mineral deposit.



# Myths about Coal mining in Meghalaya

Meghalaya is a Sixth Schedule State hence its autonomy gives freedom to the people to mine as they wish.

➤ Sixth Schedule

The unique land tenure system of the state gives rights over minerals too.

➤ Land Tenure System of the state

Coal in Meghalaya was never nationalized or have been exempted

➤ Exempted from Nationalization

Coal mining is a customary practice of the indigenous people of the state

➤ Customary Practice

**The General Misconception**

# The truth about Coal mining in Meghalaya

**Para. 9 of the Sixth Schedule Explicitly mentions the need for Lease, Licences or Leases for the purpose of prospecting for, or extraction of, minerals.**

➤ **Sixth Schedule**

**The land ownership pattern is only for surface rights and not mineral**

➤ **Land Tenure System of the state**

**Coal in Meghalaya was nationalized and names of the mines bought during the nationalization process is mentioned in the Coal Mines Nationalization Act.**

➤ **Exempted from Nationalization**

**Coal mining is a practice introduced by the British to indigenous people of the state**

➤ **Customary Practice**

**Clearing the General Misconception**



# RTI Findings

## Ministry of Coal

All Mining Laws are applicable to Meghalaya.

## Directorate Of Mineral Resources GoM

All Mining Laws are applicable in Meghalaya

## Ministry of Labor & Indian Bureau of Mines

All Mining Labor laws (Mines Act, 1952) regarding safety and health of workers applicable to Meghalaya.

# Major violations of the coal mines

## The Laws

**Coal Mines Nationalization Act, 1973**

**Mines and Minerals  
(Development & Regulation) Act, 1957**

**Mines Act, 1952**

**Forest Conservation Act, 1980**

**The Water (Prevention and Control of  
Pollution) Act, 1974**



# State Government's role in coal mining.

**1**

**Collects royalty on coal being transported to different states of the country and international markets.**

**2**

**Refuses to take actions on complaints on the various violations of the coal mines.**

**3**

**No actions taken to stem the environmental damage to forest, rivers and human rights violations.**

# The Results



Lukha River,  
Jaintia Hills District



# The Results



Lukha River,  
Jaintia Hills District



# The Results





# The Results



Surface cracks  
Sohkympkor, Jaintia  
Hills District



# The Results



Surface Cracks  
Sohkymphor, Jaintia  
Hills District



# The Results



Forest area being  
cleared for illegal  
mining.



# The Results



Mine Shaft in Rymbai  
Jaintia Hills



# The Results





# The Results



Rat-hole mining



# The Results



Rat-hole mining  
In Garo Hills



# The Results



Illegal Road Construction in middle of community forests of Garo Hills



# The Results



Water too acidic for consumption





Thank  
You!